

France to send forces to Rwanda border

PARIS (R) — France has decided to send forces to the Rwandan border ahead of an operation to halt massacres in the Central African country, a government spokesman said on Saturday. But the spokesman said the operation would only begin once approved by the United Nations. He did not specify which country the forces would go to but French media have spoken of Zaire or Uganda as possible jump-off points. A statement from the presidency and prime minister's office said the French forces would act with those of unidentified African countries and of Western states which wanted to join. A spokesman for Prime Minister Edouard Balladur told reporters U.N. clearance was a pre-condition for the operation "and you should not expect plane loads of paratroopers to start taking off until we have it." ... France has decided to send the necessary means to the borders of Rwanda. These forces, together with those of African states and of western countries joining the operation, will carry out their mission until the U.N. Security Council (UNAMIR) is in a position to carry out the mandate given it by the U.N. Security Council," an official statement said.

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NOVIAIC STYLIS

Jordan Times

جورنال تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن جريدة الصحافة الأردنية الرأي

AMMAN SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1994, MUHARRAM 10, 1415

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Sanaa toughens stand as hopes of Cairo talks fade

Combined agency dispatches

NORTHERN FORCES kept up a barrage of Aden on Saturday and planned U.N. peace talks between Yemen's civil war foes fell through, dashing hopes of imminent truce.

An official statement in Aden said 20 people were killed and scores wounded in shelling of three residential areas, raising the toll in three days of artillery bombardment to 80 people.

Northern forces were said to be mobilising at fronts and bringing reinforcements from Sanaa to attack Aden.

Residents said the bombardment eased off in the afternoon and long queues formed at bakeries in the city where people are not venturing out after dark for fear of northern shelling.

Conditions set by rival northern and southern officials appeared to have led to the collapse of a meeting in Cairo on Sunday called for by U.N. envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim to help bring about a lasting ceasefire in the war which broke out on May 4.

Aden, facing food, water and power shortages, has been target of intense northern shelling for three days prompting the breakaway state to decide to send its prime minister and foreign minister to the U.N. to call for an emergency Security Council meeting to discuss the plight of the city.

The northern government said it was holding off a final assault on Aden by its forces, battling southern defenders in an arc around the city, but would not wait much longer unless southern leaders gave

up their bid for a separate state.

An official statement broadcast on Sanaa Radio said that if its conditions were not met the government would "shoulder its duty to the nation and put an end of the rebellion."

It gave no deadline.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said in Cairo flatly that representatives of the warring Yemeni forces would not meet in Cairo on Sunday, despite earlier hopes for such talks.

"There will be no meeting of Yemeni factions," Mr. Musa told reporters after he attended a meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Mr. Ibrahim.

Mr. Ibrahim, asked to comment on Mr. Musa's remark, said: "Yes, I think he's right but I haven't got a formal answer yet."

On arrival in Cairo on late Friday Mr. Ibrahim said southern Yemeni leaders had agreed to a meeting with northern officials in Cairo to discuss a lasting ceasefire.

Southern Yemen then said it would not attend until the north stopped shelling Aden.

Mr. Ibrahim said he was waiting for the northerners to say if they would come to such a meeting, which could pave the way for a ceasefire monitoring commission including representatives of Arab and other foreign countries.

A southern Yemeni officer was quoted as saying on Saturday that southern troops had routed a northern force advancing on the key port of Mukalla.

"This (advance) was one of several pockets of northern

troops that tried to reach this area but were chased away and finished off," Ahmad Farid Al Sarima, commander of southern troops in Shabwa province, was quoted by the United Arab Emirates' Al Ittihad newspaper as saying.

The newspaper said Colonel Sarima, speaking by telephone, was commenting on reports that northern troops who advanced south-east through Shabwa early in the six-week-old war had come close to Mukalla, a key southern base close to major oilfields.

Col. Sarima said his troops, including over 12,000 armed tribesmen, had regained ground and some of them were within 12 kilometres of Ataq, the capital of Shabwa which fell to the northerners earlier in the conflict.

It was not immediately possible to get independent confirmation of Col. Sarima's account.

War between north and south broke out on May 4 after a long feud between leaders and parties from the two sides over the balance of power within the single Yemeni state.

The Sanaa government views southern leaders as traitors. The southerners accuse northerners trying to dominate them and announced on May 21 that they were taking the south out of the union.

Southern leaders said

Saturday the defenders of Aden — who include civilians, men and women, issued with guns by the authorities — had repulsed four northern attacks on Friday.

They also said the northerners were planning a massive assault on Aden,

they would delay storming Aden only if an appropriate "political solution" were found.

They said the solution should be based on ending the southern "rebellion," holding a dialogue "within the framework of the Republic of Yemen" — a reference to the united republic — and "stopping interference in internal Yemeni affairs."

The north repeatedly has accused neighbouring Saudi Arabia of helping the south with money and weapons.

There has been no international recognition of the rump southern state, but it is believed to have the support of Saudi Arabia and several Gulf Arab states.

The government in Sanaa made several ceasefire offers last week. They all collapsed within hours, with both sides accusing the other of firing first.

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King begins formal talks in U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein opens talks in Washington today with American officials on bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and regional and international issues, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

King Hussein is expected to hold a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House on Wednesday in the presence of an official Jordanian delegation and senior American administration officials, Petra said.

Petra said that the King was to hold a closed door session with President Clinton to be followed by an official luncheon hosted in honour of King Hussein and the Jordanian delegation.

Before the meetings at the White House, King Hussein

was expected to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defence Secretary William Perry as well as a number of congress-



Bill Clinton

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived in Washington Tuesday.

The King and Queen arrived from Rochester, Minnesota, where the King underwent post-operative medical check-ups, which, his physician said, found that he had been completely cured of the cancer which he was operated for two years ago.

The White House meeting between the King and President Clinton will focus on the recent progress made in the Jordanian-Israeli track of talks when Israel agreed to the Kingdom's long-standing demand for negotiations on border demarcation and water rights. The two sides will launch the negotiations next month. The talks will include security issues and economic cooperation.

World Bank affirms commitment to help Jordan address economic woes

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The World Bank on Saturday reiterated its commitment to helping Jordan overcome its economic woes and carry out fundamental reforms in some of the sectors as part of the Kingdom's efforts to achieve self-reliance.

In a gathering marking to the 50th anniversary of the World Bank, Ram Choppa, head of the international body's Al Mafrek division, said Jordan had confounded expectations when it bounced back in 1992 to register an impressive 11 per cent economic growth after suffering a severe blow from the Gulf crisis.

Describing the overall performance of the Jordanian economy and the utilisation of the Kingdom's resources since 1960 as dramatic, Mr. Choppa said Jordan's problems mainly emanated from a series of shocks that were imposed on it by regional and international developments.

Earlier in the gathering, Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib paid tribute to Jordanian-World Bank relations as "one of the most

successful relationships which the bank developed with developing countries over its fifty years of existence."

Dr. Khatib said World Bank loans through the International Development Agency (IDA) since the 60s amounted to \$1.2 billion. "There is hardly any sector in the Jordanian economy in which the bank was not involved directly by offering credit and loans or indirectly through advice and sector studies," he said.

However, Jordan had not been fully able to absorb World Bank recommendations into its economy, Dr. Khatib said in an indirect reference to World Bank suggestions that included revisions of the pricing policies of the state-run water and energy enterprises among other reforms.

"The bank has always tried to convince us to accept conditions and covenants which it felt are in the best interest of Jordan," he said. "Usually they were, but not always... Jordan, not in a few instances, resisted some of the bank conditions, not because they were not rational, but because they are not always in the best interest of political

indicators."

Mr. Choppa agreed with Dr. Khatib's observations on the remarkable progress Jordan had achieved in its health and education sectors since the 60s. In an apparent reference to the minister's comment on the 1988 crisis, the World Bank official said: "Instead of finding faults of the past, we look forward to what we can do together."

In this context, he noted, the World Bank had been the driving force behind international aid to Jordan to plug the Kingdom's financing gaps and the bank was hopeful that it would be able to repeat the same in 1995 and 1996.

(Mr. Choppa was asked in a question and answer session that followed the speeches whether it meant that the year 1997 would see Jordan self-sufficient in meeting its external obligations and if so what were the indicators and when the World Bank expected the Kingdom to achieve that target. Mr. Choppa declined direct comment.

He said it was difficult to project long-term indica-

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Koreas agree to hold summit in bid to end nuclear dispute

SEOUL (AP) — For the first time in nearly half a century, the leaders of rivals North and South Korea have agreed to meet in a bid to resolve doubts about the North's nuclear programme, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Saturday.

Back in Seoul after a trip to the North, Mr. Carter also said communist leader Kim Il Sung agreed to freeze his nuclear programme during "good-faith talks" with the United States.

The developments marked a dramatic breakthrough in the 15-month deadlock over suspicion that the hard-line communist North has been developing nuclear weapons.

North Korea says that its nuclear programme is peaceful but has failed to prove it.

Mr. Carter told a news conference that Kim Il Sung "wanted me to relay to (South Korean) President Kim Young Sam that the direct meeting could be arranged without extensive delay."

Mr. Carter said he con-

veyed Kim Il Sung's proposal for summit talks in a meeting with the South Korean president, who accepted it "gladly."

Omar Khatab, acting chief of the PLO mission in Amman, said some of those who would be repatriated are members of PLO factions opposed to the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process that began in October 1991.

If Mr. Kim carries through with the promise, Mr. Carter said that in his opinion as a private citizen, the Clinton administration is expected to put anti-North Korea sanctions "in abeyance."

The former U.S. president said he does not think the threat of sanctions would sway North Korea's leadership in the nuclear confrontation.

"In my opinion, the pursuit of sanctions is counterproductive in his particular and unique society," Mr. Carter said. He said the North's leadership would take sanctions as "an insult branding them as an outlaw country."

"This is, in my opinion, something impossible for them to accept," Mr. Carter said.

As a permanent solution to the nuclear dispute, Mr. Kim asked the United States to provide it with a light-water reactor, which produces less plutonium than the North's graphite-moderated reactor, Mr. Carter said.

He described the 82-year-old North Korean leader as "quite reasonable" but added that "his reasonableness will be tested in the future in deeds."

Mr. Carter said he found Kim to be "vigorous, intelligent, surprisingly well-informed" on nuclear and other issues.

Earlier Saturday, Mr. Carter, accompanied by his wife,

Rosalynn, crossed the heavily armed border back into South Korea at the border village of Panmunjom after a four-day visit to the North aimed at resolving the dispute over its communist state's nuclear programme.

Before crossing the border back into the South, Mr. Carter said he is confident that the North's dispute could be resolved through dialogue.

"Overall questions about nuclear weapons can be resolved," the North's official Korean Central News Agency quoted Mr. Carter as saying.

Earlier in Washington, White House officials denied CNN reports that quoted Mr. Carter as saying the Clinton administration would hold off its pursuit of punitive sanctions and provisionally agreed to resume high-level talks with the North.

President Clinton said Friday the United States will keep pushing for U.N. sanctions unless North Korea freezes its nuclear programme and resumes negotiations.

"We have to go to sanctions if the violations continue," Mr. Clinton told reporters.

Mr. Carter's trip had at first been billed as a private visit, but after North Korea expressed eagerness to help resolve the dispute, Washington quickly moved to make Mr. Carter its point man.

Arafat says he will not move without money

authority to function," one of the diplomats quoted the PLO chairman as telling Mr. MacCarthy. He and others spoke on condition of anonymity.

The PLO official news agency WAPA reported the meetings at the PLO chairman's headquarters. It also said that Mr. Arafat stressed to the envoys the need to have money in hand before moving to self-government.

On June 10, international donors promised an immediate \$42 million to finance the move and pay salaries until August.

But the World Bank, which is supervising the disposition of \$2.2 billion to be given to the Palestinians over

(Continued on page 12)

Middle East News

Hamas observes wary truce with self-rule regime

By Donna Abu Nag
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY — The leading Islamic militant who delivered fiery sermons each Friday against the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and its peace treaty changed his tone this week, admonishing the faithful that self-rule might work.

On the walls outside, the graffiti signed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, that once talked about anger and vengeance now speaks about love.

Even the police, which Hamas once predicted would be the instrument of their oppression, have won praise for their efforts against crime.

While the harsh rhetoric and calls to arms have not disappeared entirely, Islamists are searching for a role under autonomy. Finding that self-rule popular despite the PLO's disorganisation, they want to work with their rivals in order to hold sway over the religious content of laws and education.

"We are one people, we are one nation and we have one God," Sheikh Ahmad Bahar, one of the most prominent Hamas leaders, told worshippers.

Unlike previous sermons, Sheikh Bahar's Friday speech contained no criticism of the Palestinian police and only mildly scolded the Palestinian negotiators for forgetting that only the Koran can win over the Torah, the Jewish name for the first five books of the Old Testament.

While the party has not heeded an official Palestinian request to depoliticise its mosques, the tone of Hamas preachers has be-



Palestinians gather around the first patrol boat to arrive in the Gaza Strip to help the Palestinians improve the security of the autonomous area (AFP photo)

come milder, their criticism tempered and their anger directed mostly at Israel rather than fellow Palestinians.

The party's graffiti also changed. Instead of "Hamas, the revenge" or "Hamas, the anger," one can see "Hamas, the loving," written in elaborate calligraphy on city walls.

Islamists claimed responsibility for killing four Israelis and two suspected collaborators in Gaza and

the West Bank immediately after autonomy started. But there have been no such attacks since the Palestinian police commander warned that he would crack down no matter what the cost in men.

"Hamas is flirting with the idea of reaching a political accommodation," said Khalil Shikaki, director of a West Bank political science thinktank. "They are waiting to see how things develop."

Nabil Shaath, top PLO negotiator and member of the council that will govern

the autonomous areas, said this week that the days when political militancy ruled the streets are over.

"Hamas does not control anything," he said. "The Palestinian authority is the one responsible for Palestinian security and we will not allow anybody else to impose himself as a judge and a prosecutor."

Sheikh Bahar said that Palestinian police have raided suspected hideouts of activists of Izzedine Al

Qassam, the military wing of Hamas that has carried out numerous operations against the Israelis.

"These are ominous signs and we hope they don't plan to crack down on us," he said, adding without elaboration that the group could defend themselves.

But for the moment they are giving a high profile to their social activism.

They use meetings with police to try to defuse local feuds between Hamas and Fatah cells, or to focus on "indecent" behaviour like men and women mingling on the beach. Hamas wants to maintain the conservative standards in behaviour that spread during the uprising out of respect for the dead.

The group also bowed to Palestinian demands to stop killing suspected collaborators — often used in the community as a cover for personal or clan feuds.

Hamas, outlawed during Israel's occupation, shows all the signs of becoming a political party.

Hassan Asfour, a prominent PLO official, said there are regular contacts between the two sides to reach a "political understanding."

While the group refused an offer by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to take part in the governing council, it plans to get into the political mainstream by taking part in municipal elections and through membership in various associations.

It uses a network of kindergartens, food distribution points and other services to spread the message of religion.

"With God's help, we shall continue to grow," said Sheikh Bahar.

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1994

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel TV broadcasts Palestinian reburial

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel Television broadcast footage for the first time on Friday of the reburial of Palestinians who died in attacks against Israel. The Israeli army permitted the state-run television on Tuesday to follow the reburial of three of the Palestinians from the graveyard in the Jericho area, to graveyards in the area of the West Bank town of Hebron. There is another secret graveyard within Israel. The reburials were made as a gesture towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as part of the Israel-PLO accords which led to the introduction of Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Israel previously denied access to the graveyard, in Israeli-controlled land near Jericho. The graves are marked with numbers. It is not known how many Palestinians are buried there, but the numbers broadcast ran into the 1,500s. The television reported that the army cleaned up the graveyard, also as a humanitarian gesture. It broadcast "before" pictures of skulls lying next to the grave markers. Most Palestinian families are alerted if a relative is buried in one of two graveyards, but the PLO says there are more than a hundred Palestinians missing in action who might be buried in the graveyards. The television reported that right-wing legislators opposed the move, saying Israel should hold off on humanitarian gestures until the PLO provides information on six Israeli soldiers still listed as missing in action.

Attackers slit Algerian children's throats

TUNIS (R) — unidentified killers broke into the home of a retired Algerian gendarme and slit the throats of his nine-year-old daughter, his son, 23, and his wife, early on Friday, Algeria's official news agency APS said. All three died. The former gendarme, another son and his eight-year-old daughter were also slashed in the throat but survived, the agency received in Tunis, said. Their house, in Aj Hachima, in Bouira province, 90 kilometres southeast of Algiers, lies just 50 metres from the local gendarmerie and 100 metres from a military barracks, the agency said, citing security sources. Many members of Algeria's security forces, and some of their family members, have previously been murdered in their homes in attacks usually blamed by officials on Muslim fundamentalists. Some 3,700 people, mainly security forces members and armed Muslim activists, have been killed in two and a half years of violence which erupted after a general election, dominated by the fundamentalists, was cancelled in January 1992.

Iraq, Yugoslavia to forge closer ties

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraq and Yugoslavia, both under a U.N. trade embargo, have discussed expanding their economic ties, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Friday in a report monitored in Nicosia. The agency said delegations from both sides had met in Baghdad to discuss "ways of stepping up economic and commercial relations between Iraq and Yugoslavia to the mutual benefit of their two nations." INA said the delegations were led on the Yugoslav side by Economy and Trade Minister Milorad Aknovich and for Iraq by Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh. INA did not say how long the Yugoslavs had stayed in Baghdad. The same day Mr. Saleh discussed with a Chinese delegation led by Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei the "difficulties of everyday life in Iraq because of the unjust embargo" imposed by the United Nations, INA said. Recently, U.S., German and Italian businessmen have been to Iraq to sound out commercial prospects ahead of a possible lifting of economic sanctions imposed to punish Iraq for invading Kuwait in 1990. A French delegation is set to leave for Baghdad at the end of June.

5 pro-Kurdish Turkish MPs flee to Belgium

BRUSSELS (R) — Five members of parliament (MPs) from Turkey's pro-Kurdish Democracy Party (DEP) have fled to Belgium, following a court order for the party's closure, and a sixth is in Germany, a Belgian senator said. "The parliamentarians left Turkey on Thursday and arrived today," Willy Kuijpers told Reuters by telephone. On Thursday Turkey's supreme court ordered the closure of the DEP and decided that 13 of its parliamentary deputies would lose their seats. Mr. Kuijpers said he had written to Belgium's foreign and interior ministers asking for the six to be given permission to remain in the European Union. Ministry officials were not immediately available to comment. The court case against the DEP, started in December last year, stemmed mainly from speeches made abroad by the party's former chairman Yasir Kaya, and from a party manifesto. The verdict will take effect when the court order is published in the official gazette. The lawyer for the DEP, Hasin Kaplan, said Thursday he would appeal to the Strasbourg Human Rights Court. There is no appeal against supreme court decisions in Turkey. The DEP was founded in May last year, after the supreme court banned two other pro-Kurdish parties. DEP deputies, party workers and party premises in the southeast and in other parts of Turkey came under attack in the past year by unknown assailants. Turkey has been battling a Kurdish separatist campaign in the southeast since 1984. Since then, more than 12,000 people have been killed.

Report: Malaysian officials tour Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — A senior Malaysian political team toured Israel this week, Israel Television reported Friday. The team was led by legislator Sultan Tuanku Abdullah, the brother of Malaysian king, Sultan Azlan Shah, and a confidante of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. Mr. Tuanku met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in his five-day visit which ended Thursday, the television said. Israel hopes to knock down Islamic resistance to peace through ties with Malaysia, and sees the thriving economy of the country's 18 million people as having great trade potential, it said. Malaysia has long been one of the strongest critics of Israel in the Muslim World. It has censured some of its Far Eastern neighbours, such as Singapore and Indonesia, for warming ties with the Jewish state.

Life is harsh, but safer for Turkish Kurds in Iraq

BAHERY CAMP, Iraq (AP) — Rojda survived civil war raging around her village and the hard trek across the border into northern Iraq.

But her will was broken. She could not go on.

The 55-year-old Turkish Kurd piled branches and paper on her lap and lit them on fire in a suicide attempt Tuesday. Again, she survived — with the pain of new scars adding to the anguish of the loss of her family and homeland.

Rojda is among the estimated 10,000 Turkish Kurds who fled into northern Iraq this year to escape escalating fighting between the army and the Kurdish guerrillas in southeastern Turkey.

Rojda, a widow who goes by a single name, was beside her 17-year-old son during the exodus when he was shot dead by the Turkish soldiers. "I had to keep running. I could not even return to give him a last hug," she said with tears rolling from her cheek shortly after her suicide attempt.

Another son, 23, was taken away by the Turkish soldiers one night in their village in Sirnak province three months ago. "I have not heard from him since then," she told a group of reporters.

And her oldest son is among some 200 Turkish Kurdish protesters who

have been on a hunger strike for the past five days in the town of Zakho in northern Iraq to press the United Nations to improve their conditions. "I know, he will starve himself to death," she said. "Really, I have no reason left to live."

The members of this camp on the Zerikan mountains, about 15 kilometres from the Turkish border, all share similar stories.

Ahmet Berek, 17, who limps on a crutch, feels lucky to make it to the camp after a 20-day trip on a mule. The trip usually takes about four days on foot as they hide inside the mountain caves during the day and proceed after dark.

"I lost my left foot during an army bombardment against our village on New Year's Eve," Mr. Berek said.

The camp is crowded by more than 2,700 people. Among them are about 600 children aged under four, according to the statistics provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. There are 744 Turkish Kurds who live in two other nearby camps.

Although the camp life is harsh, it feels safer than in Turkey.

The refugees live in makeshift huts with open tops on the naked soil where the nights are chilly and rain is common this time of year.

Their daily diet is nothing more than a piece of bread

most of the time. The U.N. supplied 800 grammes of lentils, and rice per person each month do not last long. The relief package also includes nine kilograms of flour.

The sight of malnutrition is everywhere, but specially at the look of the children. They all seem to have runny nose which stick the dust on their face tilted with mosquito bites.

Cows, chickens, goats and mules remain inside the camp. A heavy smell remains in the air mainly because of the lack of a sewage system.

Doctors fear from the spread of malaria in the camp where there are already 20 cases. Dr. K. Raj from a Swedish relief agency, Qandil, visits the camp twice a week, but it does not seem enough.

The exodus slowed down for the past few weeks after the Turkish army almost sealed off the border. But escape routes still remain in the mountainous terrain.

The Turkish government says the fleeing campaign is run by Turkey's Kurdish guerrillas who seek international publicity. They have been fighting for autonomy since 1984 in a war which left more than 12,000 people dead.

The Ankara-based human rights organisation lists the names of 955 villages near the Iraqi border emptied by the army since 1987.

Their daily diet is nothing more than a piece of bread

WASHINGTON — The following is an official text of the opening statement by Raymond Mabus, U.S. ambassador-designate to Saudi Arabia, as prepared for delivery before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee June 17.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you.

It is a high privilege to be here today as the President's nominee to be United States ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I would like to introduce my wife, Julie and our children, Elisabeth, who is 3, and Annie, who just became 2.

I would also like to thank my state's two senators, Thad Cochran and Trent Lott, who accompanied me here and introduced me to the subcommittee and also the members of my state's congressional delegation. Chairman Sonny Montgomery, Congressman Gene Taylor, Congressman Benny Thompson

and Congressman Mike Parker who are here today. Chairman Jamie Whitten could not be here today but he sent a representative from his office.

The importance of the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States is undoubted. This relationship has and will play a crucial role in many areas, from peace and stability in the Gulf and in the Middle East, to energy, and, increasingly, to our domestic economy through trade between our two countries.

While our cultures have distinct differences, the United States and Saudi Arabia share ties which have matured over the fifty years since President Franklin Roosevelt met with King Abdul Aziz on the USS Quincy on the Great Bitter Lake.

Our relationship has strong economic and commercial ties. Over the past months,

we have seen contracts worth more than \$10 billion announced between Saudi Arabia and United States companies in airplanes and telecommunications. These contracts will have an enormous impact on our economy and will create or save thousands of American jobs. If confirmed as ambassador, I will work to continue to strengthen and enlarge our commercial ties.

Saudi Arabia is the site of one quarter of all the world's proven oil reserves. This gives it an unparalleled impact on the United States' and the world's energy equation.

If confirmed, I will have the first opportunity to serve my country overseas since my Navy service over twenty years ago. It is an obligation that I will take seriously. I will work as hard as I can to advance America's goals and interests in this critical country.

U.S. seeks democratic Algeria

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The following is an official text of the opening statement by Ronald Neumann, U.S. ambassador-designate to Algeria, as prepared for delivery before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee June 17.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am honoured to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as Ambassador to Algeria. I would like to express my gratitude to the President and the Secretary of State for this nomination. Events in Algeria will have

an effect throughout the region and in Europe. Algeria's importance to the United States derives from its position as one of the largest countries in the Middle East; as a neighbour of U.S. allies Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia; as an important producer of oil and natural gas; and as a market in which American companies are playing a growing role.

Algeria is at a crossroads in its history. The ongoing violence has produced a climate of fear which feeds extremism of all sorts. The violence and the pressures for rapid political and economic change in Algeria make this a particularly challenging assignment for an ambassador.

One challenge we will face will be to interpret a complex and rapidly evolving situation. The reporting of my mission will be as complete as our knowledge permits. If confirmed, I would work to promote the longstanding U.S. policy goal of a stable, democratic Algeria with which the U.S. government and American private companies can work.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Rescue 630341
Civil Defense Emergency 199
Police 192, 621111, 654921
Fire Brigades 637261
Blood Bank 63521
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 794710
Dr. Jamil Tarif 685446
Dr. Abbas Hakim 759153
Dr. Rami Mafouhi 759158
First pharmacy 678336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 632672
Al Salam pharmacy 636700
Nairoukh pharmacy 632672
Nairoukh pharmacy 632672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qasim (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 15 / 29
Aqaba 22 / 36
Deserts 13 / 23
Jordan Valley 20 / 35

ZARQA:

Royal Jordanian 885590
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amm 6442816
Akilah Maternity, J. Amm

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordan

Home News

Chinese official lauds Kingdom's role in peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior Chinese official Saturday voiced his country's readiness to provide all possible facilities to ensure the success of the Middle East peace efforts and underlined Jordan's important role in the peace process.

Speaking at a meeting with Dr. Ibrahim Badran, coordinator general of the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations, Wang Changyi, deputy foreign minister, said that China, which last year hosted a meeting of the working group on water issues at the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, was willing to continue

its participation in such efforts.

Mr. Wang, who arrived here Friday, said that his country fully appreciates Jordan's position at the peace process and its development efforts.

Dr. Badran said that Jordan was seeking a comprehensive peace which among other things, will guarantee the restoration of Arab lands and water and the repatriation of the Palestinian refugees.

The Chinese official, who arrived here after a visit to Iraq, earlier Saturday met the Foreign Ministry's Secretary

General Nayef Hadid who said that Jordan and China hold almost identical views about world and Middle East issues.

Mr. Hadid reviewed with the visiting official Jordanian-Chinese trade links and said that the balance of trade was heavily in favour of China but could be adjusted through the help of the private sectors.

Mr. Hadid also briefed the Chinese official on the adverse consequences on the Jordanian economy, resulting from the Gulf crisis, and the siege imposed on the port city of Aqaba over the past four years.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday talks to wives of Arab and foreign envoys about ways to help Umm Al Hussein orphanage (Petra photo)

Princess Basma launches donation campaign for orphanage

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday launched a campaign to ensure more donations for the Umm Al Hussein Orphanage with the help of Arab and foreign countries' embassies in the Kingdom.

Addressing a meeting of wives of Arab and foreign envoys, the Princess said she was concerned with promoting the annual summer charity bazaar which is organised by Arab and non-Arab embassies to raise funds for the orphanage.

Particularly of help to Princess was the honorary Jordanian consul in Tunis, Masoud Zafarini, "who personally met with Italian businessmen to familiarise them with the Jordanian market and the potential here," Mr. Pintore said.

The event is being held under the patronage of Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and in cooperation with the Chamber of Industry and the Chamber of Commerce as well as the Jordan Export Corporation, the Commercial Centres Corporation, the World Trade Centre and the Jordanian-Italian Friendship Society.

The interest that Italian companies are taking in Jordan is also due to a recession in Italy, "leaving them with no choice but to turn to external trade," Mr. Pintore said. However, he added, "it has been proven that Jordan is one of the Arab countries which offer good opportunities despite the country's small population and limited per capita income."

Firms taking part in the Italian mission's visit to Jordan include manufacturers of foodstuff, industrial equipment and consumer products as well as exporters of raw material.

Also included are clothing manufacturers and suppliers of medical equipment, construction material and electrical and electronic appliances.

"We have put together a wide-ranging selection of

orphanage's services which currently include academic and vocational training, according to a QAF official.

The 150 orphaned children currently receive academic education and get training as carpenters and blacksmiths, but the Princess is of the view that other training courses should be offered to cater to the requirements of the local labour market and help the students to find jobs later on, said the official.

Items like foodstuff, embroideries, and other handicraft are normally on sale at the bazaar, with the proceeds benefitting the orphanage.

According to the official, embassy staff normally prepare or buy the items which are sold at the bazaar and collect the proceeds themselves, then later present them as a gift to the orphanage.

He said that the one-day bazaar, which normally sells all the items to the visitors, is held at Al Hussein Youth City and their prices are far below that of similar items on the local market.

The Princess, who is honorary chairperson of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (OAF), is concerned with expanding the



Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Saturday visits the

halls where tawjihi students sit for their examination (Petra photo)

Minister visits tawjihi examination halls

AMMAN (Petra) — On the first day of a 10-day, end-of-year tawjihi examination session, Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh

inspected a number of examination halls and later said he was satisfied with the facilities offered to the students and the sets of questions.

"We always expect complaints from students about one subject or another, but it is hoped that this year the examinations will satisfy everyone," said the minister following the tour in the company of Dr. Mohammad Obeidat, director of the Ministry of Education's Examinations Department.

A total of 78,901 male and female students are taking the examination in the literary, scientific, commercial, industrial, nursing and hotel management courses and are sitting in 1,050 halls in various governorates of the Kingdom, according to Dr.

Obeidat. A total of 4,500 teachers will be marking the students' papers and assessing their results, a process which would start on June 30, one day after the end of the examinations, added Dr. Obeidat.

To ensure that examinations run according to plan, without any complications, said Dr. Obeidat, the Ministry of Education has created an operation room in the ministry building for queries about matters related to examination procedures, halls, students' complaints and regulations about students attendance.

According to Dr. Obeidat, a separate examination hall has been set up for Jordanian students who had been studying in Yemen before the outbreak of hostilities. He said these students are taking examinations set in accordance with the Yemeni syllabus for tawjihi students.

The police official said the man used several ways to rob people while impersonating a police officer. "He used different cars, of different colours and with fake plates. He would pull people off, demand to search them and end up stealing their wallets and belongings," Brig. Oran said.

Furthermore, the suspect

would target elderly people, claim that his hand is broken and that he is look-

Police: Impersonating robber arrested

By

Rama

Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Zarqa police Friday arrested a man who was reportedly responsible for more than 50 fraud cases, over seven months, in different parts of the Kingdom, according to Brigadier Abdul Kader Oran, director of the Zarqa Police Department.

According to Brig. Oran, the suspect, 38, and not identified by the police, was arrested early Monday morning in the Tabarbour suburb after being chased for an hour by police units.

According to Colonel Bashir Majali, assistant director of the Zarqa Police Department, the long search and investigations led the police to suspecting several people. Since reports indicated that the man used rented cars for his robberies, police were searching for rental made during that period.

"We had suspected a few individuals who were known to have defrauded people before, and we put them under surveillance," Col. Majali told the Jordan Times.

He said that the suspect was seen driving rented cars many times. This, he

added, made the police investigate rental places' records.

At the same time, he added, police discovered that he was seeing a woman at awkward hours. "We linked the two together and discovered that the woman the suspect was seeing had rented the car in her name during the period the fraud cases had gone on but never used them," he explained.

Policeman said that the man confessed to committing more than 50 fraud cases in several parts of the Kingdom. The suspect targeted Madaba, Ramtha, Balqa, Irbid, Jerash, Ajloun, the Jordan Valley and the Amman suburbs for his fraudulent activities.

The police official said the man used several ways to rob people while impersonating a police officer. "He used different cars, of different colours and with fake plates. He would pull people off, demand to search them and end up stealing their wallets and belongings," Brig. Oran said.

Furthermore, the suspect

would target elderly people, claim that his hand is broken and that he is look-

ing for a village doctor and pickpocket them.

The suspect would also go to a store wearing a police uniform, ask the shopkeeper for goods and when the shopkeeper would turn his back, the suspect would reach in the drawer and steal the money, the official said.

According to Col. Majali, the suspect, a Ruseifeh resident, is married twice and has seven children.

The first official announcement by police was made early this year when they announced that a man impersonating an officer robbed several citizens in different parts of the Kingdom. Then at the beginning of this month, police announced that they were searching for a defrauder in Ghour Al Safi who approached a few people claiming that he was looking for a village doctor. Police, however, did not try to link any of the incidents together.

According to Col. Majali, police have arrested the woman and have recovered a few fake car plates from the suspect's car after the chase. He added that the police are investigating the incident.

The police official said the man used several ways to rob people while impersonating a police officer. "He used different cars, of different colours and with fake plates. He would pull people off, demand to search them and end up stealing their wallets and belongings," Brig. Oran said.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Film entitled "Wildcats" at the American Center at 5:30 p.m. (106 minutes).

* Opera evening at the Orthodox Club on Sunday at 8:30 p.m.

* Exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery in Mecca Street.

* An art exhibition "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition," by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of works by several Arab artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

* Exhibition by artist Mohammad Fradi at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).

* Child Needs Expo at the International Motor Exhibition, Airport Highway (Tel. 653836).

* Exhibition of photographs by artist Mohammad Al Baddawi

Cabinet briefed on visits by Ibrahimi, World Bank team

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday heard a report from Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hasani on a visit to Jordan, last week, by U.N. envoy Lakhdar Al Ibrahimi who is mediating the Yemeni conflict.

The Cabinet also heard a report from Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib on a visit to Jordan by a World Bank delegation to discuss loans to the Kingdom, according to Minister of Culture and Acting Minister of Information Junaid Hamad.

Mr. Hammad, who spoke after the meeting, said that several issues of public interest, like credit facilities to Jordanian farmers and investments in the Kingdom, were also reviewed by the ministers.

At the end of the session, a statement said that the Council of Ministers appointed Mr. Hisham Al Khatib as Parliament secretary general and the outgoing secretary general of Parliament, Saleh Al Zoubi, as advisor at the Prime Ministry as of July 1, 1994. Mr. Khatib is a holder of Masters degree from Harvard University and has worked for Jordan Television and for the United Nations Development Programme.

The Council of Ministers decided to retire Ali Safadi, information advisor at the Prime Ministry, and former head of the state news agency, Petra, along with Louis Has, another prime ministry advisor and former ambassador.

The Council of Ministers also decided to accept the resignation of Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani, director

general of the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

Meanwhile, a Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing Thoquan Hindawi as acting prime minister and minister of defence in the absence of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali who is accompanying His Majesty King Hussein in the United States for talks with the U.S. administration.

Another Royal Decree released Saturday appointed Minister of State for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammah as acting minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs and Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh as acting minister of planning.

The Royal Decree appointed Minister of Culture Junaid Hamad as acting minister of information and Minister of State Abdullah Al Jazi as acting minister of youth.

ICARDA meeting to set parameters for safeguarding environment

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) is now embarking on the task of finalising a document containing definite proposals for the implementation of a programme on biodiversity and natural resources management in Jordan and four other Middle Eastern countries, according to Dr. Nasri Haddad, ICARDA coordinator of the west Asia region.

He told the Jordan Times Saturday that the final document will contain remarks by delegates to a two-day ICARDA-sponsored meeting which ended in Amman Thursday evening examining the project which is expected to be implemented over five years.

Delegates from Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Palestine and

Jordan discussed at the meeting ways to protect soil and water resources and stem desertification in their region through the implementation of a wide-scale programme for biodiversity and natural resources management, and approved a draft proposal for ICARDA to finalise it before taking the next step of seeking help to implement the scheme, said Dr. Haddad.

"We are expected to finalise the document before the end of the year and then we will start a campaign for raising at least \$50 million to carry the first phase of this large-scale project," said Dr. Haddad.

A consortium of representatives of the five Middle Eastern countries and ICARDA will be working together to finalise the document which will be presented to donors and which aims at helping safeguard soil, water

and vegetation, he added. The delegates to the meeting underlined the importance of this vital project for their countries and requested that ICARDA head the task force, preparing the final document, he pointed out.

Dr. Haddad said that ICARDA has tentatively secured pledges from a number of U.N. agencies and other organisations to finance the project which aims at protecting the environment.

Dr. Haddad said that the project would create opportunities for training staff at all levels in matters related to nature-safeguards, fighting off desertification and management of land sustainability.

Dr. Haddad said that the implementation of the biodiversity project runs in line with recommendations passed by the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Jordan produces sufficient poultry meat, table eggs for local market and export

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is currently producing sufficient table eggs and poultry meat for the local market's needs, with surplus for export, according to a senior official at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Engineer Nabil Al Haj Daoud, head of the Poultry and Animal Feed Department at the Ministry, has told the Jordan Times that the Kingdom last year produced 873 million table eggs, of which 79 million were exported to Arab Gulf states.

The 2,500 poultry farms in Jordan have a total production capacity of 107,000 tonnes of poultry meat annually, but last year they together produced only 87,000 tonnes, of which 3,300 tonnes were exported, said Mr. Haj Daoud.

Jordan last year had one deep freeze facility to store poultry meat, but this year one more was set up and the private sector is building facilities with slaughter houses in three different

areas outside Amman, added Mr. Haj Daoud. He said that deep freeze facilities are needed to store poultry meat, whether locally produced or imported, and ensure sufficient strategic reserves for the country.

In the absence of deep freeze facilities, the Ministry of Supply used to import frozen poultry from Europe in order to meet the local market's needs whenever there was a shortage, especially in the winter seasons, noted Mr. Haj Daoud.

By the end of 1993, a JD 300 million capital was invested in poultry farms and related businesses like hatcheries, slaughter houses, fodder processing plants and veterinary centres, among others, which together employ 5,000 workers, according to Mr. Haj Daoud.

He said that the poultry farms together produce nearly 90,000 tonnes of natural manure annually, used in farming, in addition to 10,000 tonnes of other substances employed in the processing of animal feed concentrates.

Countries hosting Palestinian refugees meet in Tunis

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation Sunday leaves Amman for Tunis to take part in a meeting of countries hosting Palestinian refugees.

The delegation to the bi-annual meeting is led by Ihsan Bustami, head of studies and research at the Palestinian Affairs Department.

The four-member delegation will be discussing with their counterparts in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and other countries related to education of Palestinian refugees in their respective countries, said Mr. Bustami.

The week-long meeting, starting Monday, has been organised by the Arab League General Secretariat.

The announcement about the meeting in Tunis coincided with department report about school closure and mistreatment of teachers and students in the Israeli-held Arab territories.

The report, issued by the studies and research unit at the department, spoke of numerous violations against schools and detentions of teachers.

Opinion & Analysis

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Not late for Arab effort

YEMEN'S six-week-old civil war still rages on despite Arab and international efforts to stop the bleeding and destruction and bring the warring parties back to the negotiating table. Even the latest efforts of the U.N. Security Council to halt the war and start peace talks does not seem to be leading to an early halt to hostilities. U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim's visit to Yemen on June 8 to convince the combatants to accept the Security Council's ceasefire resolution also appear to have bogged down in the quagmire of the escalating fighting between Sanaa and Aden.

What exacerbates the situation in Yemen is the split between the Arabs with some openly siding with Aden and others opting to restore Yemeni unity at all costs. The same Arab division that characterised the Arab World during the Gulf crisis in 1991 appears to be still haunting the Arab countries. Without the Arab capitals being able to put the national interests of the Yemeni people ahead of their own immediate interests, there can be no hope that the bloodshed could cease.

The U.N. has made a bid to bring about a ceasefire and set in motion peace talks but has not put in place an effective machinery to attain these objectives. Meanwhile, the war around Aden goes on unabated with both the Arab and non-Arab worlds watching civilian casualties on both sides mounting.

Perhaps it would be too much to ask for an Arab summit at this stage since the wounds of the Gulf crisis and war have yet to be healed completely. Still we expect the Arab League to make a more determined effort to stop the Yemeni war. This should be the primary goal of any sincere Arab attempt to contribute to the end of conflict there. Once hostilities are halted and contained, the second Arab objective should be to bring the two factions back to the conference table.

Aden and Sanaa were once able to conclude not only peace between them but also to forge unity between their two respective parts of the country. There is no reason not to expect them to demonstrate the same kind of high statesmanship by reconciling their differences in a peaceful way. Greater Arab efforts need to be exerted for this purpose. The Arab World must not repeat its performance in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. This is the time to start the healing process between the Arab capitals and the Yemeni conflict offers the opportunity to start a new page in the inter-Arab relations and demonstrates to the world that Arab differences can be solved within an Arab context.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A DECISION by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to grant the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister a distinguished international award came under bitter criticism by Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that the awarding of this prize can only be interpreted as an encouragement to Israel's inhuman actions against the Arabs and an award for its 27-year old of occupation of parts of Syrians, Lebanese, Jordanian and Palestinian lands. The granting of the prize comes at a time when the world community, witnesses Israel's proclamations in implementing the autonomy rule for the Palestinians and Israel's continued building of settlements in Arab land, added the writer. He said that honouring the two men reflects UNESCO's disregard for all that Israel has been doing and the illegal practices that harmed Palestinian people's national interests and Arab Muslim sites and educational institutions. The writer urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, who is also to share the UNESCO award on July 6, to abstain from receiving the award under the present circumstances.

COMMENTING on the exchange of ambassadors between the Vatican and Israel, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the Holy See's recognition of Israel reflects the Zionist influence on the Vatican; and the move is taken at the expense of Arab national interests in the holy land, said Mohammad Kharroub. The writer said the Vatican was encouraged to take the step in light of the Palestinian-Israeli accord reached in Oslo, and in total disregard for its own previous pledges to the Arabs and before a final settlement to the Palestine question has been reached. He said that the Vatican does not bear the sole responsibility for this unfavourable development, but the Arab and Muslim countries are also to blame for their failure to take steps to deter the Vatican from recognising Israel before a settlement for the Middle East conflict has been concluded. The Arabs and Muslims, said the writer, have allowed Israel to add one more success to its achievements by ensuring the Vatican's support for its occupation of Arab land.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Bank credit overextended

CREDIT FACILITIES extended by the Jordanian licensed banks increased during 1993 by JD 400 million, a staggering growth of 18 per cent over and above the credit balances at the end of 1992. This huge figure does not include credit extended by the Industrial Development Bank (IDB), Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and other specialised financing institutions which must be added.

In contrast, total deposits with the licensed banks rose during 1993 by JD 216 million, or 5 per cent only of the balance outstanding at the end of the previous year.

When credit grows by 18 per cent, while deposits grow by only 5 per cent, we can easily conclude that this growth was not balanced, and that bank credit was overextended. If this trend continued, the banking system may run into trouble. In sound banking policies, growth of credit should not surpass the growth of deposits. The net liquidity in the banking system, available for extending fresh credit, declined to around JD 300 million, represented by free deposits in the Central Bank in excess of the obligatory requirements as minimum cash reserve calculated as a percentage of each bank's deposits.

This over-expansion of credit took place in 1993 under a monetary policy officially labelled as restrictive, and under strict credit ceilings imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). One would ponder: What could have happened had it not been for the so-called strict ceilings and restrictive monetary policy, if we did really have one?

The ceiling of credit, required by the IMF as a condition, amounting to JD 400 million a year, is too high and unjustified. First because application of funds should not be allowed to exceed new sources of funds except at the expense of liquidity, which is not sustainable nor prudent, and second because a healthy growth of credit should not be more than needed to accommodate real growth of the economy, which was 5.7 per cent, and the rate of inflation, which was 4.8 per

cent, combined. Credit expansion therefore should not go beyond 10.8 per cent, otherwise it will be an open invitation for inflation, higher consumption, more imports, an increase of deficit in the balance of trade and in the balance of payment, and the deterioration of the foreign exchange reserves of the Central Bank.

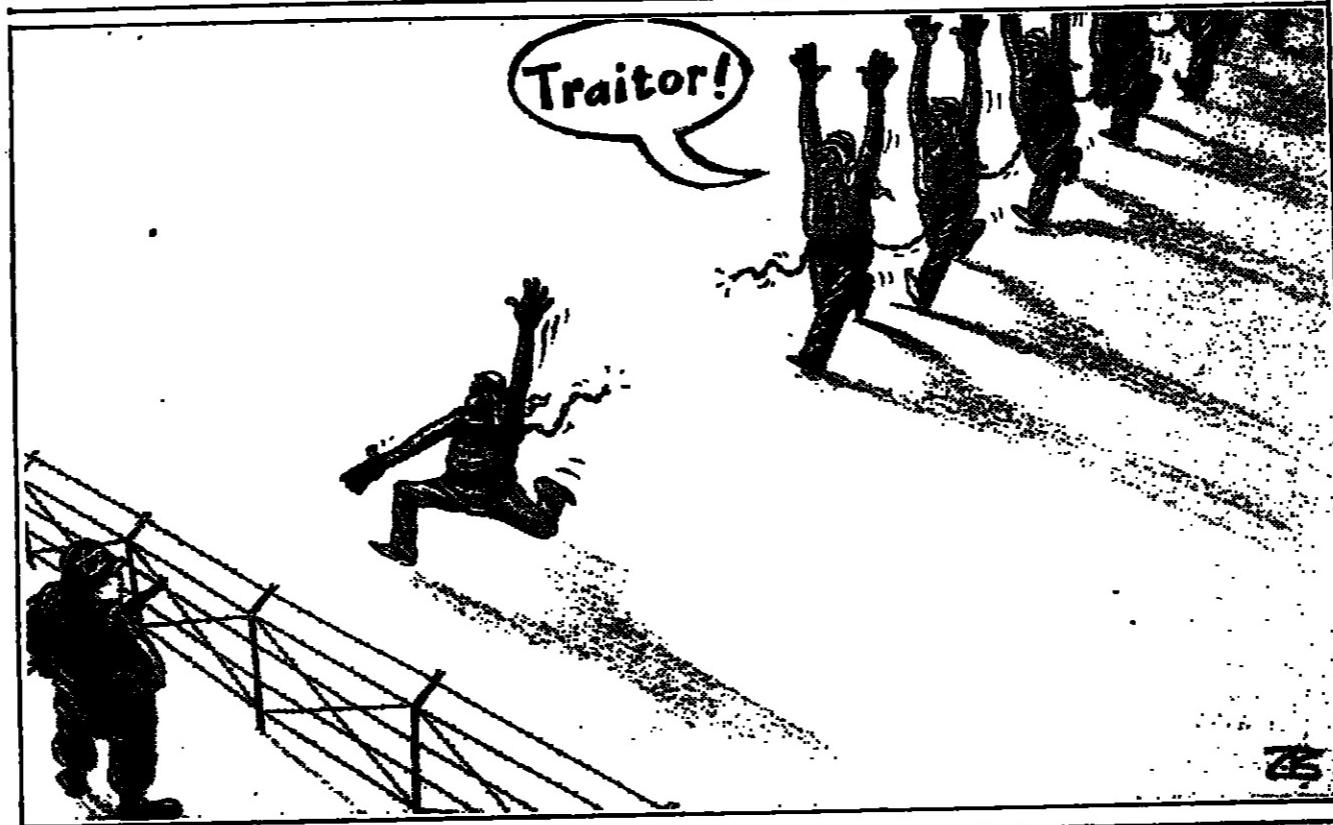
If banks allowed their credit facilities to grow at the same rate during 1994, which will continue to be within the parameters of the IMF, liquidity of the banking system will dry up, inter-bank deposits will disappear all together and the structural distortion of the national economy will go from bad to worse.

The fiscal and monetary guidelines set by the IMF as annual targets should not become a hindrance in the way of sound fiscal and monetary policies. It was a big mistake for the Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament to believe that reducing deficit in the budget beyond the target set by the IMF would be an unnecessary sacrifice, and for the Central Bank to act as if everything is alright as long as it falls within the guidelines of the IMF economic adjustment programme.

Jordanian decision makers should be more keen than the IMF experts in performing feasible reforms and achieving financial self-sufficiency as early as possible.

In this spirit the high ceiling of bank credit prescribed by the IMF should be dismissed as too expansionary. Stricter targets should be applied. The recent decline in Central Bank reserves should not go unnoticed and must be blamed, at least in part, on the expansionary climate. Something must be done about it.

In a free market economy, interventions and restrictions should be minimised. But as far as the banking system is concerned, more restrictions and close supervision are called for. Indirect measures should help, but they could not replace rigorous supervision by the Central Bank.



The long march to a peace economy

Editor's note

A CONFERENCE ON financial markets in the Middle East, held in London on April 28-29, was attended by about 400 delegates from all over the world. The event was organised as part of Britain's contribution to the work of the Regional Economic Development Working Group, set up within the Arab-Israeli peace talks. Four speakers from Jordan presented papers and gave speeches at the conference. They were Michel Marto of the Central Bank of Jordan, Umayah Toukan from the Amman Financial Market, Waheed Al Shair from an auditing company, and Basil Jardaneh, the former minister of finance; who presented the views of private banks.

The London based Middle East Economic Digest (MEED), summarised Mr. Jardaneh's paper and published it in its May 20 issue. Following is a reprint from MEED:

THE HETEROGENEOUS monetary policies that exist currently in the region and the differences in economic goals make any integration programme very difficult to implement at present.

Therefore, harmonisation, economic reforms and structural adjustments are required to reach the convergence needed to start the integration programme...

A gradual approach to integration in terms of the number of participating countries, as well as convergence, is an important ingredient to a successful venture. It should start with countries that can harmonise their economic systems, monetary and fiscal policies as well as remove economic barriers easily.

A common language, culture and family ties would certainly contribute to this endeavour. In addition, political willingness and public support to give up some aspects of sovereignty is a prerequisite for (success).

There is a good chance to

start a regional integration programme by integration between the occupied territories and Jordan because of the special relationship between them. Due to the current relationship between the occupied territories and Israel, a clear definition of the shape of the banking relationship between Israel and the occupied territories should also be addressed.

The potential for success of long-term integration looks to be more promising than with Israel, especially when we take into consideration:

— The size of the Israeli economy, its level of development and the structure of their GDP (which) makes the harmonisation of economic policies, especially monetary and fiscal policies, between the occupied territories and Israel difficult.

— The occupied territories' economy is at present too dependent on Israel...

— Since Arab countries would be the major markets for the occupied territories, less dependence on Israel and the redirection of the newly created trade to the Arab World through Jordan would be a more realistic possibility...

— Interest rate policies, inflation and wage rates are areas where the potential for convergence between Israel, Jordan and the occupied territories is limited.

(It) appears that Jordan and the occupied territories could be suitable candidates for the beginning of a banking integration programme that could be joined, later on, by other countries in the region.

The success of this venture could be ensured by several factors including demographic and geo-political factors. (A) significant part of investments in the occupied territories would come from Palestinians residing in Jordan.

A system that allows a free movement of funds from Jordan to the occupied territories and vice versa would help expedite growth in the occupied territories and maintain the stability of the Jordanian

dinar. (T)here is also good potential for policy harmonisation between the occupied territories and Jordan.

The following facts and comments will give further support to this conclusion:

— Jordan hosts hundreds of thousands of Palestinians...

— Historically, the Jordanian dinar has been accepted in the occupied territories as legal tender and as a currency of savings. It is estimated that there are around JD 500 million in the form of currency and deposits in the occupied territories. In addition, the dinar has been generally accepted by the public...

— A substantial amount of investments and savings held in Jordan belong to occupied system that would ensure the flow of funds from and to the occupied territories. On the other hand, a lot of residents in Jordan of Palestinian origin have property and investments in the occupied territories which further enforce the requirement for a smooth flow of funds to and from Jordan.

— A substantial amount of future investments in the occupied territories would be executed by individuals residing in Jordan. A banking system that facilitates the flow of funds is a prerequisite for the flow of investments.

— The expected expansion of banks in the occupied territories is a formidable task by itself. To achieve such a task, Jordanian banks have a major role to play...

— Due to occupation, trade of the occupied territories with Arab countries... is almost non-existent.

A strong movement towards improving trade relationships and utilising the potential for trade should be encouraged. Jordan will be an important market for the occupied territories (and vice versa) and an outlet for the occupied territories goods and services to (other) Arab countries.

A cross banking and financial system will support the achievement of this goal.

Within the above outlined framework, cooperation in banking between the occupied territories and Israel should be maintained. However, there should be a strong focus on integration between Jordan and the occupied territories that would expedite the flow of funds and resources as a beginning of a programme that could be joined by other countries in the region later on.

The coordination between the occupied territories and Israel should serve some areas related to the earnings of Palestinian labourers in Israel, the settlement of trade and the flow of funds. However, the possibility of any harmonisation with regard to interest rates, fiscal and monetary policies as well as wage policies are difficult to achieve at the present time due to the great divergence between the two economies.

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A U.S. soldier collects his tool kit after routine checks of heavy artillery south of the demilitarized zone dividing the two Koreas (AFP photo)

N. Korea steps back from the brink

By Laura King

The Associated Press

SEOUL — It could be a key breakthrough in the 15-month-old nuclear stalemate, a step back from the brink. But is North Korea really ready to try to resolve the impasse?

The hardline Communist state, in talks with former U.S. president Jimmy Carter on Thursday, expressed eagerness for new dialogue and agreed not to expel the nuclear inspectors now in the country.

But reaction to the North's overture had a common theme: caution. And with good reason.

It wouldn't be the first time the international community's hopes were raised — and then dashed — by expressions of willingness on Pyongyang's part to finally come clean about its nuclear intentions.

The most recent example of that came in May, when North Korea agreed to allow inspectors back in to resume work they were forced to abandon in March.

Then the north turned around and refueled a reactor in a way that made it impossible, inspectors said, to determine whether plutonium had been diverted for nuclear weapons.

Relations have gone down hill from there.

The United States, in concert with Japan and South Korea, is circulating a draft U.N. resolution calling for sanctions against the Communist state. The North has responded with repeated threats of war.

Earlier this week, North Korea quit the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog. That set off an unprecedented display of war jitters in the South, including panic buying and a run on gas masks.

Mr. Carter's talks have eased those fears. But the actions suggested that more and more South Koreans, for the first time, regard war as a real possibility.

The United States said the draft sanctions resolution was still being circulated at the United Nations.

despite the North's overture.

But the pro-sanctions alliance has displayed some signs of weakness. The relative mildness of the draft measure reflected fears that anything stronger could endanger Japanese and South Korean support — or provoke an automatic veto from China.

So is North Korea sincere, or just playing for time?

"I don't give them any credit at all," said analyst Cha Young-Koo of the Korea Institute for Defence Analyses. "This is just more of their game."

U.S. President Bill Clinton said unless the North was willing to freeze its nuclear programme while talks took place, the offer meant little.

"We have to closely check what the North's intentions are before taking appropriate steps," said South Korea's foreign ministry.

Earlier this week, South Korea's Defence Minister, Rhee Boung-Tae told law-

makers he believed the North was not simply using fears over its nuclear intentions to win concessions.

Its real goal, he suggested, was to make nuclear weapons — and possibly export nuclear material and technology to other rogue states.

"North Korea's nuclear weapons development is not for diplomatic bargaining," said Mr. Rhee. "It appears to be aiming to become a nuclear nation."

If nothing else, the latest developments could provide a badly needed cooling-off period at a volatile time. A total of 2 million troops are on high alert in the two Koreas, and hair-trigger tensions reign along the heavily fortified border.

But if this turns out to be another dodge, the North risks a strong backlash from the international community. In a very real sense, this could be a last opportunity to come in from the cold.

Said Japan's foreign minister, Koji Kakizawa:

"This is a very crucial chance for North Korea."

By Jill Lawrence
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans oppose invading Haiti nearly as emphatically as they supported invading Panama five years ago.

A Democrat occupies the White House now, freeing Republicans from the bonds of party loyalty. And the Clinton administration, by saying pointedly for weeks that the military option is on the table, is giving them plenty of time to register their objections.

Democrats and Republicans alike rallied behind President George Bush after the Dec. 20, 1989, invasion of Panama. But the harmony stemmed at least partly from the element of surprise: They were reacting to a done deed.

By contrast, the House at one point last month went on record against an invasion of Haiti. Senate Republicans have pleaded with Mr. Clinton by letter to foreclose military action. And there's been a steady drip of criticism via the media.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, a potential Clinton rival in 1996, said in one TV appearance that an invasion would be "precisely the wrong thing to do." Another Republican leader, House minority whip Newt Gingrich, said an invasion "would lead to unending problems, and I hope the administration doesn't do it."

Yet Mr. Clinton is proceeding on a course that analysts say closely resembles Mr. Bush's course on Panama: Escalating rhetoric and escalating economic sanctions.

"The pressure will be on him to actually deliver an invasion," says John Bailey, director of the Centre for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University.

Mr. Clinton is already feeling that pressure from Floridians fed up with refugee problems and also from black Democrats, a key party constituency.

Such domestic political considerations help explain why Haiti is on Mr. Clinton's front burner even as he faces far more serious problems, such as North Korea's intransigence on its nuclear programme.

A half dozen black lawmakers have been arrested in protests over the administration's policy on Haiti. One black lobbyist, Randall Robinson of TransAfrica, even went on a hunger strike. Some advocates argue there is a double standard in the treatment of Cuban and Haitian refugees.

The chairman of the congressional black caucus, meanwhile, calls military action the sole alternative if the latest sanctions — bans on commercial air travel and financial transactions — don't dislodge the military government.

William Gray III, Mr. Clinton's representative on Haiti, has defined U.S. interests this way: Haiti is a neighbour, conditions there are causing a continuing refugee problem here and the United States has an interest — as it did in Panama — in restoring a duly elected leader to power.

Republicans counter that there's no cold war threat, such as the Cuban presence that prompted Ronald Reagan to order the Grenada invasion, nor is Haiti itself a military threat to the United States.

But Panama did not present those threats either.

"Why is yesterday's gang-ho intervention today's mistake? There probably would go a long way to change that. But while invading Haiti seems easy compared to invading North Korea, it is not without risks.

Most analysts agree U.S. forces could easily jar loose the Haitian rulers and restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power — but then Americans would face an unattractive choice: Leave fast and leave a mess, or stay for years to make sure democracy takes hold.

No wonder Haiti is such a tempting political issue for Republicans unfettered by White House allegiances for the first time in a dozen years.

"The public is not excited about military action. Republicans see that," says Republican political analyst Stuart Rothenberg. "They can afford to say that the chances of losing even one American soldier here are too great to get our nose dirty."

In remotest Russia: mass flight and yearnings for independence

By Julia Rubin

The Associated Press

MAGADAN, Russia — The TV news that is beamed from Moscow to this extreme northeastern corner of Russia talks a lot about Moscow's high prices, lost jobs and crumbling infrastructure.

Magadan should have it so good.

"I don't like Muscovites, they're spoiled," says Konstantin Denisov, a mining engineer, as he and his family eat dinner in their cramped two-room apartment to the bare of the set.

Folks in this Russian Klondike pride themselves on toughness, and some, like Denisov, relish their distance from Moscow, eight times away."

But more and more people in Russia's remote regions are finding that bravado isn't enough. Nearly a quarter of the Magadan region's residents, about 90,000 people, have fled the area in the past three years of free-market reforms, and more would follow if they had the money and a place to go.

The trend is echoed across Russia's north, and some of the reasons are right on the Denisovs' table.

Cucumbers and tomatoes, cultivated in city greenhouses or shipped in, cost twice what they do in Moscow, as does a box of candy. The family seldom eats bananas: The 6,000 ru-

bies demanded for a kilogramme, which works out to \$1.50 a pound, equals a week's rent for a decent apartment.

Magadan has one of the harshest climates in the world, where winter coats are still worn in early June, and flowers don't poke their way up until later in the month.

The permafrost buckles what paved roads there are in the city of 150,000 people, an outpost on the Pacific's Sea of Okhotsk surrounded by snow-covered mountains. Neighborhoods of rundown, five-story apartment blocks squat in the mud.

Housing in such cold, remote regions is scarcer and shabbier than elsewhere in Russia.

Once, workers volunteered for such postings because of the padded salaries that went with them. But today's hardship bonuses and subsidies for staple foods have been outstripped by the cost of living, and jobs in big state enterprises are drying up.

"Why live in such extreme conditions if you can't even save money?" asks Raya Tartakovskaya, a mining engineer who has lived in Magadan for 31 years and now wants out.

The federal and regional governments have begun building housing in central Russia for northern refugees, but money is tight. Officials estimate there are

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Vatican back in the black after 23 years

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican, long secretive about money, discussed the state of its finances Friday and said it had posted a budget surplus of \$1.5 million in 1993 after 23 straight years of deficits.

The Holy See's consolidated financial statement was presented at a news conference in a week when Pope John Paul II told Roman Catholic cardinals that the time had come to debunk the "myth" that the Vatican was fabulously rich.

American Cardinal Edmund Szoka, president of the watchdog Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, said the accounts had been certified by outside auditors and were the most open and detailed the Vatican had compiled.

"There is total and complete transparency," Cardinal Szoka, a former archbishop of Detroit, said. "There are no secrets at the Holy See."

The statement showed expenditure of \$167.5 million against income of \$169 million, much of it from investments, real estate holdings in Italy and contributions from the faithful.

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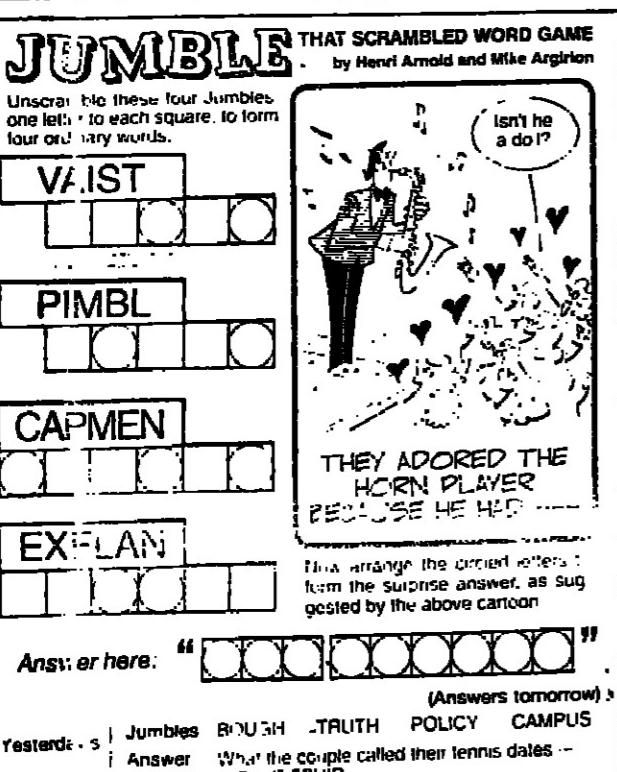
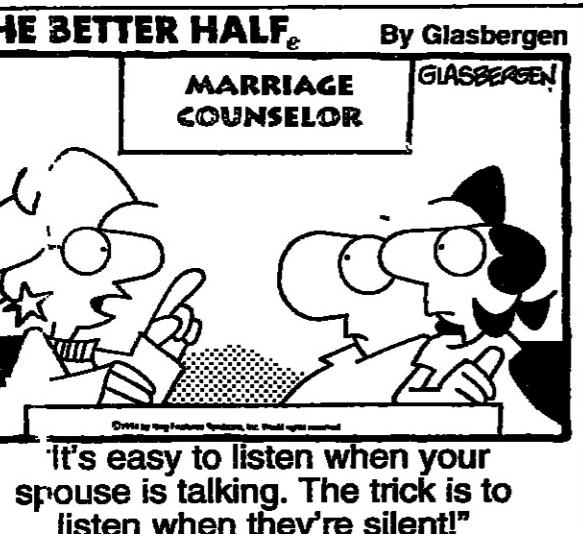
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Britain's Prince Charles to pay £1m in taxes

venues for 1993 at £9.1 million — mostly from farm rents and commercial operations. Expenses accounted for £5.6 million. The prince's taxes will be assessed on the £3.5 million profit shown by the duchy, along with about £1 million revenue from shares in the duchy and £670,000 of bank interest. The Duchy of Cornwall is one of Britain's largest private concerns, having been created in 1337 by Edward II to guarantee income for his son and heir, the Black Prince. Currently, the duchy includes 285 farms, along with commercial properties and stock exchange investments.



Aluminium and copper prices surge to new highs

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He said the Vatican's rich artistic treasures, such as Michelangelo's Pieta, were a common heritage which the church looked after for the enjoyment of all. "How can you put a price on it? They are not there for commercial purposes," he said.

The Holy See's budget covers the Catholic church's central administration, its diplomatic missions as well as Vatican Radio, the newspaper *L'Observatore Romano* and the Vatican's printing and publishing houses.

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Economy

Syria to tackle environment with World Bank help

DAMASCUS (R) — Scientists from the World Bank are in Syria to study environmental problems and offer a comprehensive plan to combat air pollution which a Syrian expert said had reached dangerous levels in Damascus.

The official Syrian newspaper, Al Thawra, said the World Bank team will tour Syria for two weeks as part of an effort by the United Nations Development Programme.

The team of experts will report to the environment ministry and other government bodies on how to tackle environmental problems and take preventive action.

Syrian newspapers have dedicated several pages to the environment, including a report quoting the chief chemist of the environment ministry, an infant ministry which has adopted an increasingly high profile in recent months.

The chemist, Abdul Razak Jilani, told the newspaper Tishreen that air samples taken from seven areas in Damascus, a city of three million people, in late 1989 and early 1990 showed that pollution "exceeded acceptable levels when compared with international health organisation limits."

The population of Damascus, the world's oldest continuously inhabited capital, swells to more than four million during the day as workers commute to the city already clogged with traffic.

Al Baath newspaper, organ of the ruling party, published a critical article about congestion in a touristic area of Damascus which it said was so polluted that it was no longer fit for habitation.

It quoted residents as saying the air was rank with fumes from an average 10,000 cars and buses that roll down its narrow lanes day and night.

The level of pollution is such that there is not a home where children are not suffering from diseases of lung and throat, infections, asthma and allergies," Al Baath said.

The head of the World Bank team, Sharif Arif, told Al Thawra that Syria, like other Arab capitals, was paying the penalty for building up its industrial base too close to urban areas to take advantage of access to roads and water pumping stations.

Syria, seeking to expand its export capacity by developing its mainly agricultural-based economy, has witnessed a rapid industrial boom in recent years. Factories belching smoke have sprung up across the country of 13 million people.

Mr. Jilani said a mobile laboratory had taken air samples in various parts of the country, particularly near industrial plants and oil facilities, with the aim of presenting regional plans to improve air quality.

He listed solutions for tackling pollution in Damascus, including curbing the movement of private cars, improving public transport, encouraging the use of bicycles and motorcycles by exempting them from road tax and monitoring emissions from plants located around the city.

Future plans could include use of electric buses, building an underground metro system for Damascus and other major cities, switching to lead-free petrol and a study into the possibility of using gas for electricity generation.

Mr. Jilani said 70 per cent of the pollution in Damascus was due to traffic congestion. The government last year ordered all commuter buses to reduce exhaust emissions. But the rise in private car ownership as a result of the industrial-led prosperity continues unchecked.

**JORDAN
TIMES**
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Financial Jordan Times

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency | New York Close | New York Close |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1,520 | 1,535 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1,632 | 1,609 |
| Swiss Franc | 1,370 | 1,355 |
| French Franc | 5,568 | 5,500 |
| Japanese Yen | 105,34 | 102,69 |
| European Currency Unit | 1,176 | 1,192 |

Last Day 18/6/94
London Time - 8.30 a.m. (Gmt)

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 18/6/94

| Current | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0,601 | 0,605 |
| Sterling Pound | 1,0592 | 1,0645 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0,4288 | 0,4309 |
| Swiss Franc | 0,5095 | 0,5120 |
| French Franc | 0,1255 | 0,1261 |
| Japanese Yen | 0,6715 | 0,6749 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0,3828 | 0,3847 |
| Swedish Krona | --- | --- |
| Italian Lira | 0,0436 | 0,0438 |
| Belgian Franc | --- | --- |

Last Day 18/6/94

| Other Currencies | Bid | Offer |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Rahmeh Dinar | 1,6170 | 1,6300 |
| Lebanese Lira | 0,040100 | 0,041230 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0,18390 | 0,18480 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 2,3270 | 2,3350 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0,18710 | 0,18850 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0,2010 | 0,2250 |
| Omani Riyal | 1,7150 | 1,7910 |
| UAE Dirham | 0,18760 | 0,18850 |

Last Day 18/6/94

Stocks slip; trend predicted to continue

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Shares prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) continued its slide last week with a drop of 1.6 points or 1.1 per cent in the general price index, the weekly market report showed Saturday.

Brokers said prices would

continue to slip unless concrete signs emerged of Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation and prospects were clearer for a Middle East peace settlement that would lead to increased economic activity in the region.

"People have been waiting for some time now for the dividends of peace to

appear," said a broker. "But it seems that false signals were the order of the day over the past several months."

The broker was referring to the economic cooperation agreement reached between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in January.

The accord gave Jordan a strong say in the monetary and banking affairs of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the interim autonomy period envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO agreement.

But a subsequent Israel-PLO economic cooperation accord signed in April cast a cloud over the Jordan-PLO agreement and limited Palestinian options in dealing with the Kingdom.

Since then, Jordan and the PLO have not been able to finalise an accord on the modalities of the broader economic cooperation agreement, which had boosted the stocks of banks and industrial companies seen poised to benefit from operations in the occupied territories.

However, the expected meetings of His Majesty King Hussein with U.S. President Bill Clinton and other senior administration officials could have a major impact on the market and reverse the stagnation, brokers said.

"People are encouraged by signs that Jordan could be successful in its endeavours to alleviate its foreign debts and attract funds for investments in the country," said

the head of a portfolio section of a commercial bank at the AFM. "Many eyes are focused on Washington."

The AFM report said market turnover for the week ending Thursday was JD4.8 million, a six per cent rise over the previous week, but a sharp decline when compared with the year's weekly record of JD21 million posted in March.

The report said 2.1 million shares changed hands during the week under 3,506 contracts.

Industrial stock accounted for JD2.8 million, or 54.5 per cent of the week's turnover, followed by commercial bank stock with JD 1.87 million, or 36.4 per cent, the services sector with JD460,000, or 8.9 per cent, and the insurance sector JD10,000 or 0.2 per cent.

The sectoral indices also showed decline. The industrial stock index slipped by two points, or 1.5 per cent, the insurance stock index by 2.4 points, or 1.6 per cent, the stocks sector index by 1.9 points, or 1.3 per cent, and the banking sector index by 1.4 points or 0.8 per cent.

Shares of 80 companies were trading during the week. Closing prices showed that 16 companies had gained, 64 had lost a little, and six remained during the week.

Brokers, who declined to be identified in line with standing AFM guidelines, said that in addition to the uncertainties of the economic dimensions of the peace process, other reasons behind

the decline in prices were combination of several other factors. These included:

— A slow withdrawal of foreign portfolio operators from the market.

"There is an international trend to focus on stock markets in other parts of Asia particularly India, and South America," said a broker. "We were expecting foreign operators to come into AFM with a significant capital infusion."

"But the trend, as we see in the past few weeks, is for foreign operators to wind their operations and quit the market to move toward other pastures."

The broker noted that some of the foreign capital that was withdrawn from AFM had been injected into the Turkish stock market which is considered another "emerging market" in the region.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Haiti declares strategic zones off limits to unauthorised visits

ORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — Declaring U.N. sanctions "akin to genocide," Haiti's military-backed provisional government Friday declared its land borders and territorial waters off-limits to unauthorized visitors.

The decree also declared state radio and television transmission installations off-limits and prohibited photographs of them.

The measures were first made public since pro-incl. President Emile Jonassaint declared a state of emergency on June 11.

"The universal economic sanctions (imposed by the United Nations on May 21) constitute a flagrant violation of the rights of man and are akin to genocide," the decree stated. "The escalation of unilateral sanctions only aims at maintaining a chaotic situation liable to provoke fraternal war."

The decree, signed by Mr. Jonassaint's de facto government, was read on state-run television Nationale by its director, Emmanuel Menard.

It declared as strategic ones the seashore, territorial waters out to 12 miles (20

kilometres) offshore, and a three-mile (five-kilometre) strip of land along the 240-mile (390-kilometre) border with the Dominican Republic, which shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

It said vessels will be allowed "innocent passage" in territorial waters.

The decree said foreigners caught in the prohibited zones without authorisation will be expelled immediately and Haitians punished by law.

U.S. and other foreign ships enforcing the trade embargo often sail within the 12-mile (20-kilometre) zone. Only a few days after the United Nations tightened the sanctions, a U.S. vessel chased a boat loaded with contraband petroleum across to shore and fired across its bow.

The incident prompted a public condemnation by Roman Catholic Bishop Guire Pouillard of Jacmel, a port southwest of the capital of Port-Au-Prince.

Journalists and other observers frequently visit the border region to check on smuggling operations.

Although the Dominican government insists it has sealed the border to smuggling, contraband gasoline is so plentiful in Haiti the price has fallen in recent weeks from a high of \$10 a gallon to around \$6.

Mr. Jonassaint was appointed provisional president last month. The move was condemned by international leaders, who recognise exiled Jean-Bertrand Aristide as the country's legitimately elected president.

The U.N. sanctions are aimed at forcing army leaders to resign and allow the return of Mr. Aristide to the presidency.

The United Nations Security Council imposed a total trade embargo on Haiti on May 21. U.S. President Bill Clinton has since ordered a ban on air service and a halt to most financial transactions on June 25. He has not ruled out the use of military force.

Mr. Jonassaint has pledged to oversee presidential elections this year which would remove Mr. Aristide from office. He was toppled by the army in a September 1991 coup a few months after a

landslide victory in the country's first free and open elections under universal suffrage.

At least 27 Haitians, including several women, have been victims of summary executions believed carried out by the military or paramilitary organisations, an international observer mission said Friday.

The United Nations Organisation of American States mission said in a communique that women and children have increasingly become victims of political violence aimed at suppressing opposition to the military regime that took power in a 1991 coup.

The statement said one of the latest victims was Marie Auxiliatrice Decossa, an activist with a small business association, who was killed Wednesday by a group of five armed men, two of them in army uniforms.

Armed civilians also struck and caused fatal injuries to two small children, aged five months and two years, in a mass rally at the Yoido Plaza on June 25. He has not ruled out the use of military force.

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Haitian children collect drinking water in on Haiti is making the basic needs of the Port-Au-Prince. The U.S.-U.N. total embargo Haitian people scarce (AFP photo)

French Socialists meet to salvage something from Euro-poll wreckage

PARIS (AFP) — Leaders of France's divided and weakened Socialist Party meet Sunday to try to salvage what they can from the wreckage of last week's European parliamentary elections.

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Part of the poll was carried out after Mr. Rocard announced Wednesday that he would seek a vote of confidence from the executive, and that he should no longer be considered the "natural candidate" for the presidential election.

If he were to step aside definitively, 65 per cent of Frenchmen, and 74 per cent of Socialist sympathisers, believed outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors would be a "good candidate" to replace him, Saturday's poll showed.

Mr. Delors, who heads down as commission head at the end of the year, has not yet declared an interest in running for the French presidency, and said after the European elections he still considered Mr. Rocard to be the natural Socialist candidate.

The party has also put off its choice until December, and there is now no doubt that Mr. Delors will be widely solicited once he steps down from his present job. Mr. Delors, a finance minister during Mr. Mitterrand's first seven-year term from 1981, could certainly count on the support of the president, whose relations with Mr. Rocard are at an all-time low.

But he has been outside party politics since going to Brussels in 1985, and he will have to overcome the seemingly inexhaustible rivalries of the various factions and the personal ambitions of their leaders.

Sunday's meeting is likely to highlight once more the contradictory ideas of the various tendencies within the Socialist Party on what must be done to revive its flagging fortunes.

Sources close to Laurent Fabius, another former prime minister, said Mr. Rocard, as chairman of the debate, should keep personalities out of it while defining future strategy, the party's political line and its administration.

Analysts guessed he would

win a vote of confidence but that it would only last him six months until the choice of presidential candidate is made, unless he can bring about a remarkable turnaround in the party's fortunes.

It could mean the end of the line for the party's first secretary, former Prime Minister Michel Rocard, who is asking for a vote of confidence from the executive after the Socialists gained only 14.5 per cent of the vote in last Sunday's poll.

If he fails to be backed,

Mr. Rocard can kiss goodbye to his chances of standing as the party candidate in the elections next year to choose the successor to Socialist President Francois Mitterrand. But rivals may well be content to let him dig his own grave a little bit deeper over the next six months while they perfect their own strategies.

The Socialists' crisis meeting follows the publication of an opinion poll Saturday in the daily *Le Parisien* that said 57 per cent of those questioned, including 60 per cent of Socialist sympathisers, believed Mr. Rocard should not

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run for president.

Part of the poll was carried out after Mr. Rocard announced Wednesday that he would seek a vote of confidence from the executive, and that he should no longer be considered the "natural candidate" for the presidential election.

If he were to step aside definitively, 65 per cent of Frenchmen, and 74 per cent of Socialist sympathisers, believed outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors would be a "good candidate" to replace him, Saturday's poll showed.

Mr. Delors, who heads down as commission head at the end of the year, has not yet declared an interest in running for the French presidency, and said after the European elections he still considered Mr. Rocard to be the natural Socialist candidate.

The party has also put off its choice until December, and there is now no doubt that Mr. Delors will be widely solicited once he steps down from his present job. Mr. Delors, a finance minister during Mr. Mitterrand's first seven-year term from 1981, could certainly count on the support of the president, whose relations with Mr. Rocard are at an all-time low.



A man wounded by Rwandan rebels is carried to the Red Cross hospital where about 180 wounded people were admitted following fierce fighting in Kigali despite the African-brokered ceasefire announced Wednesday (AFP photo).

Fighting continues in Bosnia as diplomats press initiative

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb and Muslim-led forces traded mortar and artillery fire on northern battle fronts while international mediators pressed ahead with a peace initiative Saturday to try to end the 26-month war in Bosnia.

The fighting took place near Gradacac, Ribnica and Doboj, a United Nations spokesman told reporters in Sarajevo Saturday.

The clashes cast further doubt on the future of a temporary ceasefire in Bosnia that has slowed down fighting between Serb and Bosnian armies since it took effect last week.

International mediators, hoping to kick-start peace negotiations while the tenuous truce was still holding, were meeting representatives of the warring factions over the weekend to push for the latest peace plan backed by the major powers.

The mediators believed to be presenting a peace map backed by European, U.S. and Russian diplomats that would divide territory between Serbs and the newly formed Muslim-Croat Bosnian Federation.

Diplomats said Russian mediators would present the map soon to Bosnian Serbs and their backers from Serbia, while U.S. envoy Charles Redman met Bosnian government leaders in Sarajevo and would travel to Zagreb for a meeting Sunday.

Berlin bids farewell to Western allies

BERLIN (R) — Nearly 100,000 Berliners said an emotional farewell Saturday to U.S., British and French troops who defended their city's freedom during the cold war with a final parade for the departing Western allied troops.

Mayor Eberhard Diepgen thanked the 2,000 Western allied troops on parade, saying Berlin was deeply indebted to the Western allies who protected the once-divided city from a feared Soviet invasion.

"During the last 50 years you and your comrades have been in the front line of the defence of not only the freedom of West Berlin by the freedom of Europe and the peoples' right to self-determination," Mr. Diepgen said.

A separate parade for Rus-

sian troops stationed in formerly communist East Germany since the end of World War II will be held next Saturday in eastern Berlin.

Requests by Russian forces to march with the Western allies were rejected by the Berlin state and federal governments.

The Western allies first arrived as occupation powers shortly after the end of World War II in 1945 but their role quickly changed and they became the protectors of freedom in West Berlin during the cold war.

Post-war relations between the three armies, led by a joint colour guard made up of French, British and U.S. troops.

"I wish they weren't leaving," said Horst Knuth, a 71-year-old watching the parade. "They protected us from the aggression in the East and gave us a wonderful feeling of security over the last 50 years."

Mr. Diepgen said.

The parade, which included marching bands from the three armies, was led by a joint colour guard made up of French, British and U.S. troops.

"We will go to Pailin or somewhere else," Mr. Meas Chantara said, referring to the guerrilla group's stronghold in northwestern Cambodia.

Meanwhile, the United States appears to have little stomach for providing weapons to Cambodia's government to help it combat the ultra-left Khmer Rouge guerrillas, congressional sources and Asian experts say.

The administration of President Bill Clinton has been considering a number of military options after Phnom Penh asked for military aid, but no decision has been made, a State Department spokesman said.

But experts say fears of becoming sucked into another Indochina war and of U.S. weapons falling into the hands of the Khmer Rouge could prevent the United States from sending weapons or substantial aid.

The Khmer Rouge, under their former leader Pol Pot, killed around a million Cambodians during a three-and-a-half year reign of terror in the late 1970s.

Members of the Khmer Rouge group were hurriedly attempting to obtain visas and airline tickets Saturday after being ordered out of the capital by the government, an official of the group said.

Two senior Khmer Rouge officials, Chan Youran and Mak Ben, left Saturday for Thailand after the latest round of peace talks with the government ended in failure earlier in the week.

Tep Khunna, the third senior guerrilla leader at the failed talks, was among those trying to arrange visas and tickets Saturday after receiving the expulsion order. Meas Chantara, a Khmer Rouge member said, adding that the "indignant public" planned to take action against them.

The Interior Ministry can't stop the people from being indignant, cannot forever ensure your security, and cannot bear full responsibility

U.N. evacuates 300 Rwandan refugees

KIGALI (R) — United Nations peacekeepers evacuated about 300 terrified civilians Saturday who were trapped behind battle lines in the Rwandan capital Kigali, a U.N. spokesman said.

Bursts of machinegun-fire cracked out overhead as 150 people from the dominant Hutu tribe and a similar number from the minority Tutsis were traded across government and rebel zones, Major Guy Planté told reporters.

"They were just warning shots," Major Planté said. "We are pressing ahead with our plans to evacuate as many people as possible."

A convoy of trucks rolled out of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) headquarters in the morning after a delay because of a brief burst of fighting.

The Tutsis were picked up from the government-held Hotel Mille Collines and the Hutus from the King Faisal

Hospital, controlled by the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

The Tutsis spoke of terror when Hutu militiamen stormed the hotel Friday. They were saved by quick action by the government army which sent a platoon to throw out the militia.

"We were in God's hands," said Francis Ngereko. "Anything could have happened."

Thousands of civilians have sought shelter in hotels, church compounds or other sites since an orgy of bloodshed began after the assassination of President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6.

About 500,000 more are estimated to have been killed, many of them Tutsis or Hutus opposed to the government who were massacred by Hutu soldiers or death squads.

An offensive by the Tutsi-based RPF has driven the government from the capital but troops are still controlling

the western part of Kigali and the southern and northwest towns.

The U.N. commander in Rwanda, Major-General Romeo Dallaire, said Friday he would press ahead with evacuations despite insecurity in Kigali and the problems confronting the poorly-equipped, under-manned U.N. force.

"We have two options," the Canadian general said. "We can sit back and wait for reinforcements, stay in our headquarters and eat our rations, or get on with our job."

It was not clear whether Gen. Dallaire had received security guarantees from the army and rebels to go ahead with the operation, postponed several times in the past.

A ceasefire brokered by African heads of state has failed to hold, making the situation even more fraught for the U.N.

In an effort to get a vote next week, a draft resolution,

was distributed to members late Friday.

The draft, obtained by Reuters, says the mission would be "limited to the transitional period during which UNAMIR will not be able to carry out its mandate effectively."

Paris expects European nations to help with logistics and other symbolic support and believes some African nations, such as Senegal, will contribute troops.

France could send 1,000 soldiers immediately and reinforce the operation up to a level of 2,000, a French envoy said.

The rebels have opposed the French proposal saying Paris supported and armed the Rwanda government army and militias responsible for the same massacres they are now trying to stop.

"France is clearly partial in this matter," RPF commander Major-General Paul Kagame told reporters Friday.

Yeltsin, preparing to crush crime, meets troops

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, gearing up for a promised crackdown on organised crime, Saturday went to inspect an elite police division which helped him crush a bloody uprising last year.

The president, flanked by interior and foreign ministers, the heads of his counter-intelligence service, and by his national security adviser, promised to increase the number of such troops in his battle against crime.

"You have contributed with dignity to the preservation of civil peace in the country by successfully carrying out your tasks, especially in recent troublesome years," Mr. Yeltsin told the 10,000-man division, still known as the Dzerzhinsky Division.

His message to the division, based just outside Moscow, was published by ITAR-TASS news agency. The unit celebrated its 70th anniversary Saturday.

The division was one of those from the Interior Ministry and the armed forces which helped Mr. Yeltsin crush a bloody uprising by his conservative opponents last October.

Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling the servicemen that 52,000 additional troops would reinforce the Interior Ministry's special units in a crackdown on crime.

Mr. Yeltsin visited another elite armed forces group in September last year, days before issuing a decree dissolving the old parliament which sparked the uprising.

The inspection, it appears now, was an attempt to verify the troops' loyalty to their commander-in-chief.

"I am confident that in future you... will secure public safety in the interests of strengthening the Russian state," Mr. Yeltsin said in his message.

Russian authorities have issued a number of orders to fight organised crime although none have had much effect.

But this time Mr. Yeltsin appears to be taking the matter to heart and he is personally heading the anti-crime campaign.

Earlier this week he issued a decree ordering a crackdown on ruthless, mafia-style gangs flourishing in the post-Communist era, saying they threatened the state.

Mr. Yeltsin has given the Interior Ministry and domestic security service, the FSK, until early next week to present plans for concrete action.

He has also ordered the army to get ready to back Interior Ministry forces in tackling gangs that have penetrated to the core of business and political life in Russia.

Regional leaders have been told to prepare to impose special controls in cities where organised crime is a particular danger.

This could involve the introduction of an emergency regime in economic centres like Moscow, St. Petersburg, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Krasnodar and Rostov.

"If you do arm them in the little villages, you'd be giving good weapons away. They can't stand up the Khmer Rouge," he said.

"The Interior Ministry can't stop the people from being indignant, cannot forever ensure your security, and cannot bear full responsibility

Georgian refugees return to Abkhazia and uncertainty

ZUGDIDI, Georgia (AFP) — Some of the quarter million Georgian refugees who fled fighting in the breakaway Republic of Abkhazia last year began to return to their homes this week.

But the journey back is clouded by uncertainty which the imminent deployment of Russian peacekeeping troops has done little to alleviate.

Addressing a crowded public meeting in the town cinema of Zugdidi Thursday, Georgian warlord Djaba Ioseliani said that "within a year, all the refugees will have returned to Abkhazia."

Under the Moscow accord signed between Georgia and Abkhazia last month, refugees from the Gali region, along the Inguri River, natural frontier between Georgia and Abkhazia, will be the first to be allowed to return to their homes.

Russian peacekeepers will control a 48-kilometre (30-mile) wide security zone along the Inguri.

But the agreement states that those who fought the Abkhazians will not be allowed to return. As one refugee stated Thursday: "But we all fought."

Neither will the men allowed to return be permitted to own a weapon, something unthinkable to the gun-loving Georgians, who also fear continued looting by Cossacks and north Caucasian fighters still based in the region.

Russian peacekeepers will control a 48-kilometre (30-mile) wide security zone along the Inguri.

In Georgia a gun is like a part of the body," said a Western observer at the scene.

Mr. Ioseliani's plea to the audience to return without weapons sounded weak as his Rambo-like bodyguards brandished submachine-guns, grenade launchers and pump action shotguns.

At the Inguri bridge, blown up earlier this year and passable only on foot, Abkhazian soldier Victor

On the Abkhazian side of the border sat a 44-year-old woman, Tsitsi Tuzhva, a small passport photo of her only son, killed in the war, pinned to her black dress.

She was waiting for permission to cross the bridge to see her

Georgian husband who fled nine months ago.

"My husband will return with the peacekeeping troops," she said. But she added: "We'll be able to live with Georgia but it will be difficult."

Other problems could further hinder the return of refugees.

The political status of Abkhazia should be decided first, before the refugees return," said Kakha Gikia, head of the nationalist National Democracy Party in Mingrelia, which enjoys large

support in western Georgia.

The representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tbilisi, Taslimur Rahman, believes the refugees will be able to return. "If I didn't have confidence in the sincerity of the parties (Georgian and Abkhazian) then we would have pulled out," he said.

But with the refugees' dis-

trust of the Russians, the lack of a political settlement and the all-too-recent scars of war put into question the ability of Georgians and Abkhazians to live together once more.

China flood toll tops 400, damage mounts

BEIJING (R) — Raging flood waters across southern China have killed more than 400 people, destroyed some 160,000 homes and caused millions of dollars in damage, official reports said Saturday.

In Guangdong province, typhoon Russ and heavy storms in its wake killed at least 139 people, the official China Daily said.

The cost of the damage in the province, China's econo-

mic hothouse, is at least \$97 million, with farmland affected and hundreds of factories shut down.

In Hunan province, the flooding has killed at least 105 people and destroyed 80,000 houses, the official People's Daily said.

In Jiangxi province, at least 19 people have died and 7,000 homes have collapsed.

The state flood control

headquarters in Beijing

warned that river valleys in five key southern provinces

would be under threat for the next three days as down-

pours continue to swell rivers above their normal levels.

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Three matches to be held today

Mexico hope passing game will topple physical Norway

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — Cameroon can finally put their worries behind them Sunday when they take the field against Sweden, for their opening Group B match in the 1994 World Cup.

The Indomitable Lions, who became the first African nation to reach the World Cup quarter-finals with their stunning run in the 1990 finals, say they will not be thinking about federation politics or financial problems.

But manager Henri Michel of France admits the Swedes could prove a difficult puzzle to solve.

"Sweden is very difficult," he said. "They have played together such a long time. For this Sweden team, it is now or never."

The Swedes suffered a blow when experienced central-defender Jan Eriksson aggravated a right thigh injury in training and withdrew.

Swedish manager Tommy Svensson has called up Ted Lunde, an under-21 international who has never appeared in the senior side.

Weber makes Belgium's point against Morocco

ORLANDO, Florida (AFP) — All eyes will be on Croatian-born striker Josip Weber when Belgium open their World Cup campaign against Morocco Sunday.

Belgium coach Paul van Himst had long lamented his side's lack of goals and has greeted Weber's prolific entry onto the international scene as being a "gift from heaven."

Weber, granted Belgian citizenship in March, responded to his international call-up with five goals in a record 9-0 win over Zambia June 4 and that performance has been followed by four more goals in the build-up to the finals.

Weber has been Belgium's top league scorer for the past three seasons, scoring 135 goals in all for Cercle Bruges in six campaigns.

If he can translate that form to the World Cup stage then the Belgians, who face Morocco without their suspended defender Philippe Albert, can hope to match their performance of 1986

"It was very unlucky that Eriksson had to leave the squad," Svensson said. "Lucic is one of the most talented players in Sweden. He is a skilled central defender with good speed and plays well in the air."

However, the 26-year-old will likely only be used as a back-up.

Svensson has two more experienced defenders at his disposal in Patrik Andersson and Joachim Bjorklund.

He said his team's organisation would prove vital against the exuberant Africans.

"I think we are difficult to score against," he said. "That is always good to have in a tournament like this."

The Swedes, who were only one of four teams to lose all their matches at Italia 90, are hoping to improve.

As well as their disciplined defence, they have the services of striker Martin Dahlberg, who scored seven goals in nine qualifying matches, and effective Parma striker Tomas Brodin.

But Svensson said it would be a mistake to write off

when they reached the quarter-finals.

At the outset Morocco will undoubtedly attempt a containing job. Coach Abdellah Blida accepts their underdog role.

"Of course the Belgians are superior to us on paper. But we have prepared right down to the very last detail and given that most of our squad play in Europe there is no reason for us to feel any complex," he said.

With a favourable draw having grouped them with Saudi Arabia, Morocco may be able to steal one of the places for best third-place finishers. That would give them the chance to emulate the performance of their 1986 team who lost only narrowly to eventual finalists Germany at that stage.

The sides face the daunting prospect of opening the Group F game in the middle of the day, guaranteeing that they will be playing at the Citrus Bowl under a sun at its most powerful and in temperatures of nearly 40C.

Cameroon as a spent force.

"They are a very strong team," he said. "I don't think people understand how strong they are. They have had problems, but they are used to them. They are very well prepared."

Michel, who took over Cameroon Jan. 13, has been particularly appalled by the turmoil surrounding his new team, but he said the side was ready.

"We worked a lot," Michel said. "Maybe not as we would like — we had some injuries and the end of different championships kept some players out."

"I had to balance, and maybe we lost some time, but we should be ready."

Roger Milla, who captivated fans at the 1990 finals when he became the oldest player to score a World Cup goal, is back at the advanced age of 42.

Milla resumed training Thursday after resting his strained right thigh earlier in the week.

But, Milla, who was added to the squad after the intervention of Cameron president Paul Biya against the wishes of some players and despite the doubts of Michel, will not start against Sweden.

Cameroon launched their run to the quarter-finals in Italy with a stunning upset of defending champions Argentina in the tournament opener.

Michel says the first match will again set Cameroon's course.

He expects defenders Stephen Taito, who will likely wear the captain's armband, and Hans Ago, along with striker Francois Omany-Biyick to play crucial roles.

'Don't write me off,' says Becker as bookmakers back 're-Pete'

Cameroon can finally put worries behind

WASHINGTON (R) —

Mexico are pinning their hopes of toppling a physically-superior Norway team on a combination of their own skilful passing game and the effects of the heat in Washington's opening World Cup Group E clash.

"We should be good enough to take points from all three countries in our group," said Norway's coach Egil Olsen. "The impression we have from warm-up games is that Mexico are good — but not that good."

Olsen said Norway will not be compromising their direct, physical style of play because of the heat. "It will be difficult for us, but it is too late for us to change our style. We cannot do anything about it."

The Mexicans, more used to the high temperatures and humidity which have hit Washington this week, recognise they cannot compete with Norway's direct aerial approach and a classic clash of Latin American and north European soccer styles is in prospect.

"It should be a very interesting game from the tactical point of view," said Mexico's veteran striker Hugo Sanchez, 35, who has taken on the role of unofficial spokesman for the Central American squad from reserve coach Miguel Mejia Baron.

"We feel we have the skill and technique to unsettle them, but we know we will have to work hard with the ball and to retain possession. I think we have an aggressive attack this time and we feel confident."

Sanchez, in his third World Cup, is likely to start the match at the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium on the substitutes' bench, while fellow-veteran Carlos Hermosillo leads the attack with Luis Roberto 'Zague' Alves, scorer of a record seven international goals against Martini last year.

Norway, more used to the cool climate of Scandinavia than the sultry heat of Washington, prepared for the conditions by wearing plastic bags in training before travelling to their New Jersey base. They will arrive in Washington on Saturday.

Referee: Sandor Puh (Hungary)

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U.S., Switzerland draw 1-1

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Two free-kick goals gave the United States and Switzerland a 1-1 tie in a Group A game Saturday that marked impressive progress for the U.S. national soccer team.

Under pressure to vindicate the choice of its country for the world's most popular sports event, the U.S. team was vastly improved over the squad that lost its 1990 opener against Czechoslovakia 5-1.

For the United States, it was the first point in World Cup finals since 1950, for Switzerland, it was the first since it hosted the 1954 championship.

It was also a first for World Cup soccer, the two teams played indoors at the Pontiac Silverdome Stadium in sweltering 34-degree Celsius (93 Fahrenheit).

Switzerland, which was missing high scorer Adrian Knup with an ankle injury, went

ahead at 40 minutes on George Bregy's free kick from the edge of the penalty area.

But Eric Wynalda struck back for the Americans on a 45th-minute free kick, tying the game at a psychologically perfect time — immediately before the teams headed off for halftime.

The Americans got near the goal twice in the first 10 minutes, but Tab Ramos set up the ball for Swiss keeper Marco Pascolo.

Switzerland took control of the match midway through the first half, led by tireless set-ups from playmaker Alain Suter.

But Alexi Lalas and the U.S. defense virtually shut down striker Stephane Charpentier.

Bregy had the first scoring chance on a Swiss attack, his

spinning flat shot from 20 metres heading just inside the post before Tony Meola dove to grab it.

Thomas Dooley's tackle from behind that brought down Suter on the edge of the area set up Switzerland's go-ahead goal.

Bregy, a 36-year-old free kick specialist, curled the shot over the U.S. defensive wall and into the far corner of the net, catching Meola flat-footed on the line.

Wynalda's 25-metre blast for the 1-1 was even more impressive, leaving Pascolo no chance as it grazed the underside of the crossbar heading into the top left corner.

Wynalda, one of several U.S. players with foreign experience, has boosted his skills in Bundesliga. He was the first U.S. player to break into the German first division with FC Saarbruecken in 1992-93.

Knicks top Rockets, take lead

NEW YORK (AP) — A revived Patrick Ewing kept New York in the game, then John Starks and Derek Harper won it. And the Knicks moved a win away from their first National Basketball Association (NBA) title in 21 years.

Mexico, with no injury problems, will be missing midfielder Alberto Garcia Aspe, a skilful left footed playmaker, through suspension.

Probable teams:

Mexico: 1-Jorge Campos 21-Raul Oquintero, 2-Claudio Suarez, 3-Juan Ramirez Perales, 5-Ramon Ramirez 15-Miguel Espinosa, 4-Ignacio Ambriz, 14-Joaquin del Olmo, 10-Luis Garcia 7-Carlos Hermosillo, 11-Luis Roberto 'Zague' Alves.

Norway: 1-Erik Thorstvedt 20-Henning Berg, 4-Krone Bratseth, 3-Erlend Johnsen, 5-Stig Inge Bjoernebye, 22-Lars Bohinen, 10-Kjetil Rekdal, 7-Erik Mykland, 11-John Ivar Jakobsen 6-Jostein Flo, 11-Jan Aage Fjortoft.

Referee: Sandor Puh (Hungary)

six straight New York points to tie the game at 69 with 8:02 to play.

Ewing had 25 points, 12 rebounds and eight blocks for the Knicks, who made 16 of 40 foul shots. Hakeem Olajuwon had 27 points for the Rockets.

With the Rockets on top 79-76, Starks hit a basket with an 11-1 run in the last three minutes for a 91-84 victory Friday night and a 3-2 lead over the Houston Rockets in the NBA finals.

New York can become the fifth team in six years to win the title on the road Sunday night in Houston. A seventh game, if necessary, would be there Wednesday night.

The Rockets rallied from a 56-43 deficit with a 22-5 spark that gave them a 65-61 lead two minutes into the fourth quarter. But Ewing, who had 13 of the Knicks' first 26 points in the second half, got

With 45 seconds left and a chance to pull within four, Olajuwon missed a short baseline jumper and the Rockets missed three consecutive tip-in attempts.

After the Knicks won a jump ball, Mason made two foul shots with 28.8 seconds left to

capture the title.

New York pushed the lead to 56-43 with 6:51 left in the third quarter. Then the Rockets charged back, outscoring the Knicks 18-5 the rest of the quarter and tying the score at 61.



Boris Becker

quarter-finals Thursday.

Meanwhile Pierce creashed to unknown 15-year-old Czech-born Ludmila Novotna has nagging shoulder injury to contend with.

But perhaps there will be a fairy-tale ending for Gabriela Sabatini. The Argentinian, who has plunged down the rankings to tenth and who has been written out of the script at Wimbledon where her wristy top-spin baseline tennis leaves her vulnerable.

The same but even more so goes for her compatriot and third-seed Conchita Martinez.

Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands has the biggest serve in women's tennis but

remains too unpredictable to be a serious title hope.

And last year's finalist and fifth-seed Jana Novotna has nagging shoulder injury to contend with.

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has been a runner-up eleven times since she won her last title at the 1992 Italian Open. Perhaps this time she will prove the critics wrong and go one step further.

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Pakistani Women's Association Raffle Results

Following are the prize winning numbers of the raffle draw in the Mango Festival held at Philadelphia Hotel June 16, 1994 organised by the Pakistani Women's Association for the welfare of YMWA Centre for Special Education. The winners may kindly contact the Secretary, Embassy of Pakistan. Tel.: 622787, 624680, 638352.

0163
0842.
0160.
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0918.
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PLO chooses handicapped centre for headquarters

JERICHO (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has decided to commandeer a long awaited old age home and handicapped centre here to house the headquarters of Yasser Arafat's self-rule administration.

The decision brought dismay to 40 elderly and handicapped patients and the small staff who must remain in a squat barracks next to the nearly-completed building of sandstone and marble.

It also highlighted some Palestinians' concern that the hardships of Israeli occupation might be giving way to somewhat authoritarian rule by fellow Arabs.

"We fought the Israelis for years to get the approval to construct a well-equipped house," said Abdul Aziz Mahmoud, the supervising nurse at the facility. "And now when it is almost completed, Palestinian officials visited the site a few times and decided to take it."

PLO officials said the decision last week was a temporary consequence of financial and logistic problems plaguing the transition to self-rule, which began in the Gaza Strip and Jericho last month and is later to spread to other parts of the West Bank.

They promised a different site would be found in six months.

But many do not believe them, noting officials have

ordered a wall built around the new building that would block the view of the unsightly barracks and their handicapped residents.

The facility, housing a mix of physically and mentally handicapped, is known throughout the West Bank simply as the disabled centre.

"We are facing a lot of problems in establishing the offices for the Palestinian authority," Saeb Erekat, minister for municipal affairs in the 24-member self-rule authority, told the Associated Press.

He said six ministries, including-Arafat's equivalent of the prime ministry, could be housed in the building, which many consider one of the nicest in the sleepy oasis that is becoming the capital of self-rule.

"We have promised them to renovate their place and help them," Mr. Erekat said of the barracks' residents. "They will not be removed."

He said the Palestinians received a pledge of \$300,000 from the Spanish government to start building 50 new offices for the self-rule government throughout Jericho.

Mr. Arafat, who has yet to set the date for his arrival, is expected to bring up to 1,000 PLO bureaucrats with him in transferring his Tunis headquarters to Jericho.

The loss of the new structure comes as a severe blow to the residents of the three barracks, whose asbestos

roofs make them broiling hot in the 120-degree summer temperatures and cold in winter.

Residents live five to a room and there is not enough refrigeration space to keep meals on hand.

For the past year-and-a-half the main topic of conversation has been the new building rising less than 50 metres away. One patient who could not walk would haul himself on his hands to look at it.

European nations donated \$1.5 million for the 2,400-square-metre building, which could have housed over 100.

Workmen now busily subdividing it into offices expressed disappointment that their labours will not benefit the new.

"We built it as a shelter of the handicapped and not for the Palestinian national authority," said architect Ragheb Arafah. "It will not be fair to take it and not provide an alternative place," he added.

Abdul Halim Mahmoud, 79, and nearly sightless, has lived in the centre for 23 years.

The Israeli "told us we would get a new building," said Mr. Mahmoud. "But when self-rule came, they put a Palestinian flag on the top and said it is the PLO building. We said we only seek help from God."



Lebanese Army soldiers check cars in front of a destroyed house in the mountain area east of Beirut Saturday. Thousands of Lebanese troops are deployed in the area to guarantee the return of the Christians expelled from their villages 11 years ago by Druse' militias (AFP photo)

Army deploys in Shouf mountains

ALEY, Lebanon (Agencies)

I'm happily willing to be stopped and searched by our soldiers," Sami Hamdan, 37, a shopkeeper told the Associated Press. "It's now the legitimate authority eroding the 1975-1990 civil war.

"The Shouf was the scene of savage fighting during the war. But it has been calm since the end of the conflict, in which 150,000 people were killed and 100,000 maimed.

The Shouf was the scene of

white handkerchiefs

waving, white handkerchiefs

from balconies and showered

the tanks and armoured per-

sonnel carriers with rice and

rosewater, the traditional

Lebanese welcome.

The unopposed deploy-

ment was more a symbolic

gesture by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government to

demonstrate an even-

handedness in its dealings

with Christians and Muslims

than to quell any trouble.

Troops from the army's 3rd

and 10th brigades took up

positions and erected check-

points in 32 Druze towns.

They will escort and protect

Christian returnees once

their convoys begin to stream

back, an army communiqué

said. It listed no timetable.

Cheering crowds quickly

formed around military

checkpoints in Aley, the

largest town in the Shouf,

20 kilometres southeast of the

capital.

There has been a military

presence in the mountains

since May 1991, when most

militias were disbanded and

the government began re-in-

stating its authority.

Ostensibly, Mr. Hariri, a

Sunni Muslim, sent in the

army Saturday to ensure that

Christian refugees who fled

or were driven out of the

Shouf during the war can

return to their former homes.

The government is striving

to resettle the estimated

450,000 people on both sides

who were displaced by the

conflict. Officials say some

37,000 of the 76,000 Christi-

ans who fled the Shouf after

the fierce battles of the 1983

"mountain war" when Druze

militiamen seized control of

Christian-held areas there.

The fighting resulted in massacres and the levelling of villages by both sides.

"The aim of the operation is to create the suitable security climate to pave the way for the return of normal life through the return of the displaced and co-existence, one of the main pillars of peace," he said.

Officials of the Ministry of the Displaced People, headed by former Druze warlord Walid Jumblat, say two main obsta-

cles facing the return of the displaced are insufficient security and lack of money to rebuild their homes and the infrastructure.

Many officials argue there can be no real peace in Lebanon until those who fled have been able to return.

After the civil war ended, troops fanned out into several

areas of the country in a bid to stamp state authority and put an end to the militias of the gun.

The 40,000-strong Lebanese army is aided by some 35,000 Syrian troops deployed over two-thirds of Lebanon.

Nashashibi heads for Jericho to set up 'finance ministry'

By Marjam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mohammad Zaidi Nashashibi, who holds the finance portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), goes to Jericho today to set up the first of 20 PNA government ministries.

"I will go to Jericho to set up the Palestinian financial authority," said Mr. Nashashibi on Saturday.

The Palestinian "finance minister" will spend five days in Jericho "setting up" the ministry ahead of a June 29 meeting of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

The PECDAR meeting will convene to discuss the implementation of projects and coordination of donor community and World Bank grants and loans to the self-rule areas.

The implementation of an infrastructure programme will begin after the PECDAR meeting, Mr. Nashashibi said.

The World Bank seed money is \$50 million in the first three years of self rule on Jericho and Gaza.

Thirty million dollars of the \$50 million will be spent in the Gaza Strip on the implementation of infrastructure projects. An additional \$20 million is to be used for a second phase of infrastruc-

ture projects also in Gaza.

A total of \$1.2 billion from donors is expected to be granted to projects in the self-rule areas not later than the third year of the self-rule period of five years.

According to Mr. Nashashibi, priority for infrastructure projects is as follows: transport, energy, wastewater treatment, housing, telecommunications, education, health, industry, and central administration.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti teenager kills mother, lover

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti teenager killed his mother and her lover after catching them together in her bedroom, a newspaper reported on Saturday. "A 16-year-old boy shot and then stabbed his own mother and a male friend of hers to death when he found them in her bedroom," said the English-language Arab Times. The teenager turned himself in to the nearest police station after the murder, the paper said. It gave no further details.

Veteran AP newsman Rizkallah dies

CAIRO (AP) — Sami Rizkallah, who retired last year after 25 years as an Associated Press newsman covering the turbulent Middle East, died early Saturday after emergency surgery. He was 66. Family members said Rizkallah had been in failing health since suffering liver failure two months ago. He was stricken in the port city of Alexandria and died after emergency surgery to stanch internal bleeding. Rizkallah joined the AP in 1966 after 13 years with United Press International. He was the night supervisor in the AP's Cairo bureau for much of his AP career. The era included two Middle Eastern wars, the death of President Gamal Abdul Nasser, the trip to occupied Jerusalem by Abdul Nasser's successor Anwar Sadat, Sadat's peace treaty with Israel and his assassination by extremists, and the rise of an extremist threat to Egypt in the 1980s. Rizkallah is survived by his wife Marcelle, a son and twin daughters. The funeral was Saturday.

Arabs, Israelis stage mini-concert

TABA, Egypt (R) — An Israeli strummed Arabic songs on his lute while Egyptians and Palestinians sang along. Arabic, English and Hebrew filled the air as business cards were exchanged and addresses swapped. The impromptu concert, staged by Israeli lute player Yair Dalal in a hotel lobby in the Red Sea resort of Tabia on Friday night, may have been small compared to British rock star Peter Gabriel's plans for a 10-hour music extravaganza. But when Gabriel's show, intended to be a celebration of Middle East peace featuring Arab, Israeli, African and European performers, was cancelled by Egyptian officials on security grounds, the music lovers had little choice. "I came to Tabia to meet Peter Gabriel and to sing for peace," said Mr. Dalal, who recorded a song called Zaman Al Salam (time for peace) and cooperated with many Palestinian singers in Israel. Gabriel's concert, which the rock star said was his way of supporting the Arab-Israeli peace process by gathering Arabs and Israeli musicians and fans, was to have taken place in Tabia later on Saturday. After the ban it was moved a few kilometres across the border to the Israeli port of Eilat.

Leading Cairo lawyer on hunger strike

CAIRO (R) — The head of the Cairo lawyers' syndicate, Abdul Aziz Mohammad, has gone on hunger strike in protest at the detention of his colleagues, a senior lawyer said on Saturday. Ahmad Saif Al Islam Banna said Mr. Mohammad would continue his fast until the lawyers were freed and Egyptian authorities released a report on the death of a fundamentalist lawyer who died in police custody last month. Mr. Banna said Mr. Mohammad, a 59-year-old diabetic, would sit out his hunger strike in the offices of the lawyers' syndicate. Seventeen lawyers are still held by security forces for their role in a March protest over the death of Abdul Harith Madani, an Islamist lawyer, who died on April 27, one day after police arrested him at his office in Cairo.

Greeks accuse Turks of setting fire

NICOSIA (AP) — Authorities Saturday accused Turkish occupiers of setting fire to Varosha, the abandoned Greek Cypriot sector of Famagusta, a resort town Turkey holds on this divided island's coast. Authorities urged the United Nations to force the occupiers to abide by U.N. recommendations and withdraw. Greek Cypriot newspapers suggested Turkish occupiers set the blazes in Varosha, which began in several spots simultaneously Thursday, to destroy Greek Cypriot properties in advance of the possible return of their owners. The fires destroyed two to three square kilometres of mostly empty fields, plus an unknown number of empty homes before being rekindled by strong winds Friday, said Andreas Pouyouros, Famagusta's Greek Cypriot mayor in absentia. Greek Cypriots say that the Turks did too little to try to douse the flames Thursday, but that they moved in to combat the fire Friday. In a protest to the U.N. Security Council, Mr. Pouyouros claimed the fires were started deliberately and asked that Turkey be made to implement U.N. resolutions that would return Varosha to the 60,000 Greek Cypriots forced to flee when Turkey invaded in 1974.

Algerian human rights chief murdered

(Continued from page 1)

tions. "I leave it to your imagination," he told the questioner.

The radio, reporting another attack, said that a family of three was killed inside their home in Ain Defla province, some 120 kilometres southwest of Algiers.

The three were a 73-year-old man, his wife, and their son aged 30.